

Hafa Adai!

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Saipan-based Army Reserve soldiers graduate from Drill Sergeant Academy. **PAGE 4**

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Julian Assange to plead guilty on Saipan today



Julian Assange is seen in London on June 24, 2024 in a screenshot courtesy of WikiLeaks' X page.

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Julian Paul Assange, the man accused of leaking U.S. national defense information and endangering individuals, is set to arrive on Saipan this morning



RELATED NEWS

Assange will plead guilty. **PAGE 10**

where he is expected to plead guilty before U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

See **JULIAN** on Page 4

AP

The plane thought to be carrying WikiLeaks' Julian Assange, on his way to enter a plea deal in U.S. court, prepares to land in Bangkok, Thailand, Tuesday, June 25, 2024.

Marianas delegates join forces in support of cabotage exemption waiver

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. delegates for CNMI and Guam have banded together to introduce legislation that, if passed, would provide

a special cabotage exemption for foreign carriers seeking to fly from Guam to another U.S. port.

In an attempt to lower airfare costs in the Marianas, Delegate James Moylan



Sablan



Moylan

(R-Guam) and Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan
See **WAIVER** on Page 4

Woman allegedly involved in burglary faces charges of conspiracy

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A woman allegedly involved in the burglary at the Beach Garden Estate Hotel and Apartments in Garapan appeared before the Superior Court in Susupe last Thursday, June 20, 2024.

Jolene Cabrera Muna, 42, is facing charges of conspiracy in violation of the Commonwealth Code, after
See **WOMAN** on Page 4



The Beach Garden Estate Hotel and Apartments in Garapan was the site of a burglary last June 13.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Jeju Air to add more flights to its Incheon-Saipan route

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI is expected to see additional daily flights from Incheon to Saipan thanks to Jeju Air come July.

According to Seijin Kim, representative of Marianas Visitors Authority's Korea Office, come July 17, Jeju Air is expected to add an additional daily flight to its twice daily flight schedule from Incheon to Saipan just in time for summer.

"Starting from July 17, Jeju Air will add one more flight to its schedule. This means we will have three daily flights from Jeju Air for 33 days, which is like a month for the summer season," she said.

With the additional flight schedule, the Korean market
See **ROUTE** on Page 4



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Marianas Visitors Authority Korea Office representative Seijin Kim.

INSIDE



LOCAL

Saipan Community School is thrilled to announce and celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2024.

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WORLD

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange will plead guilty to a felony charge in a deal with the U.S. Justice Department that will allow him to walk free and resolve a long-running legal saga that spanned multiple continents and centered on the publication of a trove of classified documents.

PAGE 10



LIFE & STYLE

Taylor Swift had a surprise for fans attending her Eras Tour at London's Wembley Stadium on Sunday: her boyfriend and tight end for the Super Bowl-winning Kansas City Chiefs, Travis Kelce.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING WELLNESS MISSION 2024

SAIPAN, TINIAN, ROTA



The Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, under the Office of the Governor together with the Public School System and other various CNMI Community Partners are in collaboration with the Department of Defense, 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support) are pleased to share information on the CNMI Operation Wellness Mission this June 2024.

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MILITARY PERSONNEL WILL OFFER:



Healthcare Exam
Services



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Care



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Saipan

- Dentistry Services
- Optometry Services
- Healthcare Exams
- Behavioral & General Public Health Education

Location: Saipan Southern High School

- Veterinary Care

Location: Saipan Mayor's Office Dog Shelter
Koblerville Middle School

June 21: 8AM - 6PM
June 22: 8AM - 12PM
June 23-27: 8AM - 5PM
June 28: 8AM - 12PM

Tinian

- Dentistry Services
- Optometry Services
- Healthcare Exams
- Behavioral & General Public Health Education

Location: Tinian Junior/ Senior High School

- Veterinary Care

Location: Tinian Dog Control, Marpo Heights

June 21: 8AM - 6PM
June 22: 8AM - 5PM
June 23: 8AM - 12PM
June 24-27: 8AM - 5PM
June 28: 8AM - 12PM

Rota

- Dentistry Services
- Optometry Services
- Healthcare Exams
- Behavioral & General Public Health Education
- Veterinary Care

Location: Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr./Sr. High School

June 21: 8AM - 6PM
June 22: 8AM - 5PM
June 23: 8AM - 12PM
June 24-27: 8AM - 5PM
June 28: 8AM - 12PM

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs Office at (670) 789-3558 / (670) 789-3559 / (670) 483-1812 / (670) 483-1813

Local

SNILD confirms Jang to Zoning Board

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan & Northern Islands Legislative Delegation has confirmed the nomination of Steve Jang to serve on the Commonwealth Zoning Board.

Last week, the Saipan & Northern Islands Legisla-

tive Delegation held a special session to rule on Jang's nomination to serve as part of the Commonwealth Zoning board.

With all 17 members of the delegation voting yes, the motion to adopt the standing committee report to confirm Jang to serve as a member of the zoning board passed.

With the delegation's confirmation, Jang will be representing the Third Senatorial District on the Zoning Board.

In a previous statement from the Plumeria Steak House and Ete Cafe owner, he said he is grateful for a chance to give back to the community.

"I'm both honored and humbled to have this opportunity. I'm exceedingly grateful and elated with the opportunity to give back to the community. I have owned and operated small businesses for 30 years here in the CNMI. Due to my business, I have interacted with the CNMI Zoning

office many times. Through these experiences, I became familiar with the Zoning process and the Zoning Board. I can say with confidence that Zoning is an integral part of the Commonwealth's economic infrastructure," he said.

Jang said as part of the Zoning Board, he pledges to do his best ensure that Zoning provides efficient and streamlined services to help business owners function in the CNMI economy.

"Every business on Saipan must go through the Zoning office to obtain zoning permit to get a business license. The Zoning process implicates



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan & Northern Islands Legislative Delegation has confirmed the nomination of Steve Jang to serve on the Commonwealth Zoning Board.

numerous issues that impact businesses such as land use, conditional use, landscaping, parking, signage, urban planning, among other things. This is why it is vitally important that the Zoning Board is comprised of people who understand the ins and out of the Zoning office. Over the years, I have had many interactions with Zoning. It is very important as this office is a

major function of the CNMI. I believe it is a requisite to be an effective member of the Zoning Board," he said.



Located at the Armatech Building in Chalan Kanoa across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. For reservations or for more information, call 234-8894, 287-8895 and 488-8899.

Torres, Valdisimo make Hollins University dean's list for Spring 2024



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hollins University is a private university in Hollins, Virginia.

ROANOKE, Virginia—Hollins University congratulates Dionne Torres and Nina Lauren Valdisimo, both from Saipan, for earning dean's list honors during the spring 2024 semester. To attain this distinction, students must earn at least a 3.5 average on a 4.0 grading scale. Congratulations to these distinguished scholars on earning this academic achievement.

Hollins University is dedicated to academic excellence, creativity, belonging, and preparing students for lives of purpose. Hollins provides an outstanding and academically rigorous undergraduate liberal arts education for women and entrepreneurial and innovative graduate programs for all in a gender-inclusive environment. **(PR)**

Chamber July meeting set for July 3

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has set its July general membership meeting next Wednesday, July 3, 2024, from 11:30am to 1pm at the Hibiscus Hall of the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and Capt. Ryan West of the U.S Marine Corps will be the guest speakers for the July meeting.

The Chamber's recent and future plans and activities from its committee chairs will also be presented during the meeting.

Lunch fee is \$35 for Chamber members and \$40 for future Chamber members. This fee includes lunch, networking opportunities, and insightful discussions.

To register, visit the following link:

<https://business.saipanchamber.com/events/details/2024-july-general-membership-meeting-470?calendarMonth=2024-07-01> or you may contact our office at (670) 234-7150 or send us an email at contactus@saipanchamber.org.

The Chamber is a non-profit organization with approximately 140 members dedicated to promoting the economic growth and development of the CNMI. The Chamber serves as the collective voice of the business community, advocating for their interests, fostering collaboration, and driving initiatives that support the local economy. **(PR)**

Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: <http://opacnmi.com>
1220 Route 312, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 501399, Saipan, MP 96950
E-mail Address: mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: 6/21/2024

Closing Date: 7/5/2024

POSITIONS

- (1) Legal Counsel
- (1) Audit Manager

EXAMINATION NOS.

- OPA-24-001
- OPA-24-002

The Application for Employment may be available for download at www.opacnmi.com and available for pick at the Office of the Public Auditor, Building 1220, Route 312, Capitol Hill.

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CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
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Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION TO BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-ITB-013-24
SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 12, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"SALE OF SURPLUS GOVERNMENT VEHICLES"

THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) INVITES BIDDERS TO BID ON THE SALE OF SURPLUS GOVERNMENT VEHICLES LOCATED AT THE TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND SEAPORT.

THE BID PACKAGE WHICH INCLUDES BID PROCEDURES AND CONDITIONS OF SALE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING JUNE 26, 2024 AT THE CPA ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND ONE (1) COPY OF THEIR BIDS IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SALE OF SURPLUS GOVERNMENT VEHICLES (ITB-013-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., JULY 12, 2024.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 540-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council
P.O. Box 501521, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 322-6537/8
Fax: (670) 322-6548 • E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net

FY 2024 SRC 2nd General Membership Meeting
June 28, 2024 - 9:00am
Crown Plaza Resort - Terrace Private Room

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of FY 2024 SRC 1st General Membership meeting Minutes of January 30, 2024.
- V. Review of Membership Vacancies/Reappointments
- VI. Reports
 - (a) SRC Chairperson
 - (b) Committee Report
 - (c) OVR Director
- VII. Old Business
 - (a) Update on Local fund match
 - (b) Review and Discuss SRC By-Laws
 - (c) CSNA update
 - (d) CAP update
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Action item:
 - OVR P&P Section 16 - Off-Island Service Policy
- X. Miscellaneous
 - Next SRC meeting
- XI. Adjournment

/s/ Antonelli Rosario, Chairperson

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals who wish to attend the meeting but requires accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreter to contact the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation at 322-6537/6538 or email jimbo@ovrgov.net in advance before the meeting.

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (DOE, OSERS Grant #H126A240078).

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Saipan-based Army Reserve soldiers graduate from Drill Sergeant Academy



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left to right, Drill Sergeant (Sgt.) Luis Macaranas, Drill Sergeant (Staff Sgt.) Albert Aldan, and Drill Sergeant (Sgt.) Ricky Santiago pose for a photo after successfully completing the nine-week U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy on May 29, 2024, at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. The soldiers are the first Saipan-based Army Reserve graduates with Charlie Company, 2/413th Regiment, 95th Training Division (IET), Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

Three Saipan-based U.S. Army Reserve soldiers successfully completed the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy on May 29, 2024.

Staff Sgt. Albert Aldan, 40, Sgt. Luis Macaranas, 34, and Sgt. Ricky Santiago, 32, completed the nine-week academy at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, earning themselves the distinct title of drill sergeant.

"The physical and mental challenges were tough, and

being away from my loved ones added an extra layer of difficulty," said Aldan, a husband and father of four. The 17-year Army veteran works full-time for the Dept. of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

For Macaranas, who is also a husband and father of three, the experience was rewarding.

"Leaving my family, in addition being away from my three-month old newborn made the academy a challenging but also rewarding experience," Macaranas said.

Macaranas, a 16-year Army veteran, works for the CNMI Public School System as an instructor and P.E. teacher at DanDan Middle School.

In order to become a drill sergeant in the reserves, soldiers must first pass a selection phase known as the Drill Sergeant Candidate Program. The phase is made up of four-day vetting process, which will determine if a soldier is ready for

the Drill Sergeant Academy.

Once soldiers make it pass the selection phase, they are then sent off to the nine-week course. There soldiers go through rigorous training at the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy which trains, educates, certifies and validates a non-commissioned officer's abilities to execute and teach the core tenants of the Enhanced Basic Combat Training Program of Instruction, Physical Readiness Training, Drill and Ceremonies, Basic Rifle Marksmanship, and Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills.

According to Santiago, a husband and father, the most challenging part of the academy was maintaining the high level of mental and physical endurance required throughout the training. (PR)

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

ROUTE

From page 1

will have an additional 6,000 seats to Saipan.

Currently, the total seat supply for the CNMI is 226,777. With a load factor of 84%, Kim shared that the CNMI is forecasted to see about 190,493 travelers from Korea this year.

This is a 7.33% growth from 2023, Kim added.

In an interview with MVA managing director Chris Concepcion, he said the news of additional flights is welcomed with the impending loss of Asiana Airlines.

"Jeju Air has announced a third daily flight which will

take effect next month which is just in time for the summer high peak season. We understand Asiana is suspending flights at the end of this month. We saw this coming as Asiana was having their own financial difficulties. They are in bankruptcy proceedings, and we expect them to merge with Korean Airlines sometime this year," he said.

Concepcion added that MVA is also engaging with Korean Airlines, who is expected to absorb Asiana Airlines sometime this year, in hopes of getting them to fly service a route to the CNMI.

"So, we've already begun engagement with Korean Airlines. We have some discussion going behind the

scenes so we can make sure that we are on their radar when they are ready to fly to Saipan," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, earlier this month, Asiana officially announced that it would be pulling the plug on its CNMI operations by the end of this month.

In a letter addressed to the public, Asiana Airlines regional manager Intak Hwang stated that after 32 years, Asiana Airlines will no longer be serving its Incheon-Saipan route come June 30.

"After three decades of service in the CNMI, our last operation will be on June 30, 2024. Following this date, we will no longer be serving the

Incheon-Saipan route. Asiana Airlines has been the front runner in providing quality air travel to Saipan residents and promoting Korean tourism in the CNMI since May 1992. We are proud of all that we have accomplished together with our island partners and would like to thank you all for your loyalty and support in the last 32 years. Please be assured that we will maintain and deliver the high standard of professionalism and service that has set Asiana Airlines apart from competitors until our final flight from Saipan. We once again appreciate your long-standing cooperation and wish you all the best moving forward," said Hwang.

WOMAN

From page 1

being allegedly involved with Steven Roman Tudela in the burglary of an occupant's residence at the Beach Garden Estate Hotel and Apartments.

Muna appeared in court in the custody of the Department of Corrections, under a \$10,000 bail, according to her arrest warrant. At the hearing in Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho's courtroom, Muna was provided a public defense attorney, Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig. Representing the government is assistant attorney general David Karch.

Muna's arraignment hearing is set for July 8, 2024, at 9am, but until then she was released from DOC on her own

recognizance.

According to court documents, on June 13, 2024 at 1:46pm, the Department of Public Safety Central dispatched units to a reported burglary and theft incident at Beach Garden located along Chichirica Avenue in Garapan.

According to the reports, police responded to a bystander who had alerted the officers that a male individual broke into one of the rooms. A maintenance worker also said that he saw a man jump over the fence from room B401 and ran into room B406.

Officers were notified that the man was still inside room B-406, occupied by a Joelen Muna. Officers obtained Muna's cell phone number and repeatedly called it to verify

whether Muna or any others were inside the room. Officers conducted a safety check and opened the room, finding a male individual inside one of the bathrooms. The man was brought out of the apartment, where he was identified as Steven Roman Tudela. The maintenance man positively identified Tudela to be the man who jumped over the fence. Tudela was then arrested and was advised of his Miranda Rights.

According to the report, on the way to DOC, Tudela admitted to the officers that he was the individual who entered the victim's apartment and took a black MK brand bag and place it inside room B406, Muna's room. Tudela added that on the night of June 12, 2024 he had met with

Muna at Saipan Vegas. He said Muna told him that the owner of Beach Garden Estate Hotel and Apartment was off-island, and invited him to sleep over at her apartment so that he could hit the owner's apartment next door.

Tudela stated that after he took a black MK bag from the victim's room, Muna then took the black MK bag and placed it in a black and yellow plastic bin and exited the apartment because the police were coming.

Officers learned from the bystander who called that Muna was indeed holding a black plastic bin walking to her car and placed the plastic bin into her vehicle when she left the apartment.

An arrest warrant for Muna was issued on June 18, 2024.

WAIVER

From page 1

(D-Saipan) have led the introduction of H.R. 8786, a piece of legislation that would provide a special cabotage exemption for foreign carriers seeking to fly from Guam to another U.S. port.

This would allow for competition for certain routes, which in turn should lead to more competitive pricing which ultimately benefits the consumers.

While Moylan introduced the resolution, Sablan served as the Democrat co-lead for the legislation.

Under current federal law, a foreign carrier can't transport passengers or cargo from one U.S. port to another.

Currently, United Airlines is the only domestic carrier that provides routes between Guam and the CNMI, as well as Guam and Hawaii.

If H.R. 8786 were to become law, a foreign carrier could provide services between Guam and the CNMI, Guam and Hawaii, or even consider a route between Guam and one of the contiguous states.

"This is an issue which has been building, and with all additional concerns being raised recently, from United's pet policy to and from Guam, and the ending of the native bird repatriation program, along with \$500 airfare costs between Guam and Saipan, something needs to be done," stated Moylan.

"This is going to be a massive undertaking, but we are ready. Just as the unions protect the domestic ships industry, we will face solid challenges from many entities, particularly from the incumbent carrier. This is also an issue which will be a marathon and not a sprint. In other words, it needs to build some momentum and will take time. We have and will continue to build an education campaign on why H.R. 8786 is so important for the Marianas," added Moylan.

Based on research of the average costs of domestic travel, leaving from the Guam International Airport to any airport across the nation is considered the most expensive route.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

JULIAN

From page 1

The CNMI is expected to be the center of international attention with the Wikileaks founder set to arrive at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at around 6am today.

Assange, who will be represented by attorney Richard Miller in court today, is set to plead guilty to a charge under the U.S. Espionage Act; specifically conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified information relating to the national

defense of the United States.

It was learned that Assange will be brought to Saipan for a change of plea hearing as he has heavily opposed traveling to the continental United States to enter his guilty plea and because of the proximity of the NMI federal U.S. District Court to his country of citizenship, Australia, to which he is expected to return at the conclusion of the proceedings.

Yesterday, Matthew J. McKenzie—deputy chief Counterintelligence and Export Control Section of the U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division—submitted a letter addressed to Manglona asking that both Assange's change of plea hearing and sentencing be held today before he returns to Australia.

"We are attaching the electronically signed felony information in the above-captioned matter and respectfully request that, as soon as possible, the clerk docket this letter and information in order to provide public notice of the Rule 11 hearing scheduled before your honor on Saipan for Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 9am, during which we anticipate that the defendant will plead

guilty to the charge in the information of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified information relating to the national defense of the United States, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 793(g), and be sentenced by the Court for that offense," said McKenzie.

According to the information filed against Assange—who is not a United States citizen and does not possess U.S. security clearance or authorization to possess or control documents, writings, or notes relating to the national defense of the United States—conspired with Chelsea Manning,

a United States Army intelligence analyst who held top secret U.S. security clearance and was deployed to forward Operating Base Hammer in Iraq, from at least 2009 and continuing through at least 2011 to disseminate classified information relating to the national defense of the United States.

Specifically, the duo allegedly received documents, writings, and notes connected to U.S. national defense.

"Including such materials classified up to the SECRET level, for the purpose of obtaining information respecting the

national defense, and knowing and with reason to believe at the time such materials were received and obtained, they had been and would be taken, obtained, and disposed of by a person contrary to the provisions of Chapter 37 of Title 18 of the United States Code, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 793(c)," said the information.

Lastly, the co-conspirators are accused of willfully communicating documents relating to the national defense to persons not entitled to receive them in furtherance of the conspiracy.

GCC to host island-wide FAFSA workshops I

In a move to assist island community members looking to fund their higher education, Guam Community College will host several outreach events and Free Application for Federal Student Aid workshops. GCC received an award of \$58,783 from ECMC (Education Credit Management Corp.), which focuses on guiding Guam students and their parents/guardians in completing and submitting the FAFSA application through Aug. 31.

The FAFSA Student Sup-

port Strategy workshops are open to all potential students regardless of age or college choice.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid form is an application for federal student aid. Individuals seeking further education must complete the FAFSA form to apply for federal student aid such as federal grants, work-study funds, and loans. Completing and submitting the FAFSA form is free and easier than ever, and it provides access to federal student aid—the largest source of

aid—to help students pay for college or career/trade school.

In addition, many states and colleges use the FAFSA information to determine an individual’s eligibility for state and school aid. Some private aid providers may use your FAFSA information to decide if you qualify for their financial assistance.


The 2024-25 FAFSA application cycle has substantial changes to the student financial aid application process, including a new application form, new eligibil-

ity criteria, new terminology, new requirements for parents and other contributors, and a shorter timeline for applicants to submit the FAFSA. As a result, the U.S. Department of Education believes that students and families need additional support, advice, and encouragement to complete the FAFSA form and enroll in college. Guam Community College received an award of \$58,783 from the Education Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) to host island-wide FAFSA Student Sup-

port Strategy workshops. This funding is for GCC to assist Guam residents with completing the FAFSA application.

The FAFSA Student Support Strategy goal is to increase the number of students who complete a 2024-25 FAFSA and enroll in college, particularly first-time students. Since Public Law 37-93 requires all high school seniors to complete the FAFSA as a requirement for graduation, this program is timely.

To learn more about the FAFSA Student Support Strategy and the program’s schedule, contact Esther Rios at (671) 735-5641 extension 1122 or esther.rios@guamcc.edu. To inquire about completing the FAFSA form for GCC, contact the Financial Aid Office at (671) 735-5543 extension 5544 or financialaid@guamcc.edu. Active-duty military and veterans can seek assistance by contacting Victor Fernandez at (671) 735-5543 extension 5556 or victorfernandez1@guamcc.edu. **(PR)**



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

JUAN A. SABLAN BUILDING | CALLER BOX 10007 | SAIPAN, MP 96950 | 670.664.2410 | INFO@HM.GOV.MP

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

HOPE Recovery Center Generator and Generator House Project

RFP24-GOV-42400065

The Office of the Governor, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), through the Governor's Authorized Representative (collectively, "Commonwealth") is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors to deliver, supply, and install a generator set and renovate the existing generator house at the HOPE Recovery Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30- 3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The RFP Package will be available in digital format beginning Wednesday, **June 12, 2024**, and may be requested by emailing crsablan@omb.gov.mp or rlpangelinan@omb.gov.mp, or online at the Vendor Self Service portal at <https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss>. A hard copy will be available at the HMGP Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan during regular working hours. A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the HOPE Recovery Center in Marpi conference room at **9:30 a.m. on June 28, 2024**.

Questions about this request for proposal shall be addressed to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Office attn.: Leona Deleon Guerrero, Project Manager, via email at ldlguerrero@omb.gov.mp no later than **July 5, 2024**, by 4:30p.m. All questions and answers shall be shared with prospective proposers.

The total proposal length shall not exceed 25 pages in length. A contractor that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications and experience on similar projects	30%
2. Work load and resources to accomplish work	10%
3. Project Approach & Schedule	10%
4. Cost	50%

Performance time for completion of this project is 180 calendar days upon issuance of notice to proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be \$100.00/day.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top 3 ranked contractors. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified contractor to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"RFP24-GOV-42400065 - HOPE Recovery Center Generator and Generator House Project."** For proposers within the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services, located at Building No. 1301 Ascension Dr. Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 no later than **09:30 a.m. ChST, Friday, July 12, 2024**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than **09:30 a.m., ChST, Friday, July 12, 2024**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to bidintent@dof.gov.mp.

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **9:30 a.m. ChST, July 12, 2024**, and mailed to the Director of Procurement Services P.O. Box 10008 CK, Saipan MP 96950 and the proposal documents must be received no later than **July 23, 2024**. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.


The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Patrick C. Guerrero

Governor's Authorized Representative

Brien S. Nicholas, Acting Director

CNMI Procurement Services



NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION

AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

P.O. BOX 506689, SAIPAN, MP 96950

PHONE: 670.234.3878

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence's mission is to promote, nourish, and sustain a collective movement to end violence in the CNMI. All applicants must be familiar with and agree with NMCADSV's mission to eliminate domestic and sexual violence.

Position Description

Position Title: Program Assistant

Salary Range: \$10.00/hr to \$14.00/hr

Job Summary

The Program Assistant will work with the Executive Director of NMCADSV and its Board to achieve its mission, goals, and objectives. The Program Assistant will support the daily operations of NMCADSV, including support for NMCADSV staff, the Executive Director and/or NMCADSV Board/Members, as assigned.

Duties

- Confers with and reports to the Executive Director
- Assists with the coordination of all NMCADSV activities; including event planning, logistics for NMCADSV and Board meetings, preparation of materials, and travel logistics
- Provides administrative and clerical support to the Executive Director and the NMCADSV Board of Directors and Members; including receiving calls, receiving and logging mail, and maintaining records, as assigned
- Maintains and manages the NMCADSV membership database
- Assists with finance and operations of the NMCADSV; including daily bookkeeping, vendor relations and record keeping
- Attends all meetings and conference calls, as requested
- Travels to national and inter-island meetings and conferences, as required by the Executive Director
- Oversees the maintenance of office equipment and manages office inventory
- Assists the Executive Director in grants management, including the preparation of application packets and gathering data for reports
- Performs other duties, as assigned

Minimum Qualifications

- High School Diploma, or equivalent
- An agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence
- Experience in providing clerical and administrative support, including record keeping
- Demonstrated abilities in verbal and written communication
- Proficiency in MS Word and Excel
- Willingness to learn in all areas of NMCADSV operations
- Flexible Schedule
- Must be able to travel

Highly Desired Qualifications

- 1 year of documented experience/work with non-profit organizations or volunteerism
- Own transportation, with documented insurance, registration, and a valid driver's license

To Apply:


A **Resume and Cover Letter** should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, June 28, 2024**. Provide a list (not copies) of any certifications and/or awards. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Submit **resume and cover letter** to management@endviolencenmi.org, deliver to NMCADSV's office (**between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.**) at the Marina Heights I Building (2nd Floor, Suite 206) or mail to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) Applicants who are invited for an interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma or equivalent, Police Clearance (within the last 30 days), valid Passport, and a list of references.

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer.

Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice and Grant # G-2301MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



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Position Description

Position Title: Program Coordinator

Salary Range: \$14.00/hr. to \$18.25/hr.

Classification: Full Time, Non-Exempt. Full Benefits, including paid leave and health insurance.

Job Summary

The Program Coordinator will work with the Executive Director of NMCADSV, Associate Director, and other NMCADSV staff to achieve its mission, goals, and objectives. The Program Coordinator will report to NMCADSV's Associate Director, assist with the daily operations of NMCADSV, and provide support for NMCADSV's programmatic activities. The Program Coordinator will plan and execute activities in relation to NMCADSV's mission and goals, with particular attention to specific activities outlined in corresponding grant applications.

Duties

- Confers with and reports to the Associate Director
- Assists with the coordination of all NMCADSV activities, including training and program development.
- Assists with development of presentation and training materials.
- Conducts presentations and assists with training events.
- Develops and executes community outreach and education activities.
- Assists with program evaluation.
- Maintains relationships and works collaboratively with a variety of organizations.
- Builds and maintains partnerships with community organizations and government agencies.
- Works with community organizations and government agencies to identify and address training needs.
- Attends all meetings (virtual or in-person) as assigned.
- Travels to national and inter-island meetings and conferences, as required or requested.
- Assists in grants management, including the preparation of application packets, gathering data for reports, and preparing reports.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications

- An agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence
- High School Diploma or Equivalent
- Experience with community organizing and/or outreach
- Experience planning and executing events
- Demonstrated proficiency in written and oral communication
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Applications and Google Applications
- Ability to manage multiple tasks and deadlines
- Ability to work some nights and weekends
- Experience with assessments and analysis
- Must be able to travel within the CNMI and US Mainland

Highly Desired Qualifications

- Experience working in social justice or working directly with survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.
- Knowledge of dynamics of sexual violence and/or domestic violence.
- Knowledge of and commitment to culturally relevant, empowerment, and strength-based strategies for eliminating sexual violence and/or domestic violence.
- 1 year or more of documented experience/work with non-profit organizations or volunteerism
- Own transportation, with documented insurance, registration, and a valid driver's license

To Apply:

A **Resume and Cover Letter** should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, June 28, 2024**. Provide a list (not copies) of any certifications and/or awards. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The 10 Commandments belong in (some) places of worship—not in public schools

Do Americans have the right to not practice religion? When the question is phrased like that, even most fervent religious believers out there would likely concede that, yes, non-belief (like belief itself) must qualify as a fundamental American right.

Yet that right is under frontal attack today, from a religiously driven political movement operating under the premise that if government doesn't promote religion, it is by definition attacking it.

That premise is not only backward, but is a slippery slope toward theocracy. The latest slide comes in Louisiana, with a new law requiring that every public school and college post the Ten Commandments in every classroom.

Republican Gov. Jeff Landry signed the law Wednesday. It makes his state the first to test the Constitution's church-state separation in this manner since a U.S. Supreme Court opinion in 1980 that found a Kentucky requirement to display the commandments in public schools violated the establishment clause of the First Amendment.

That clause is unambiguous: Congress (and, by extension, the states) "shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." The trendy narrative among religious conservatives today that church-state separation is a myth only works if you ignore the very first words of the very first amendment in the Bill of Rights.

As clear as that seems, it won't necessarily be clear to today's radical-right Supreme Court. The conservative majority in 2022 upheld a public high school football coach's right to pray on the school's football field after games and invite his players to join him. The ruling brushed off the obvious implied pressure the coach created on his players to pray.

The Louisiana law goes beyond merely implied pressure: Every student attending publicly funded schools in the state will literally be a captive audience to a religious doctrine specific to Judeo-Christian faith. The new law even sets minimum dimensions for the commandment displays (11 by 14 inches) and mandates that they must be "in a large, easily readable font."

That slippery slope we mentioned? This is what it looks like.

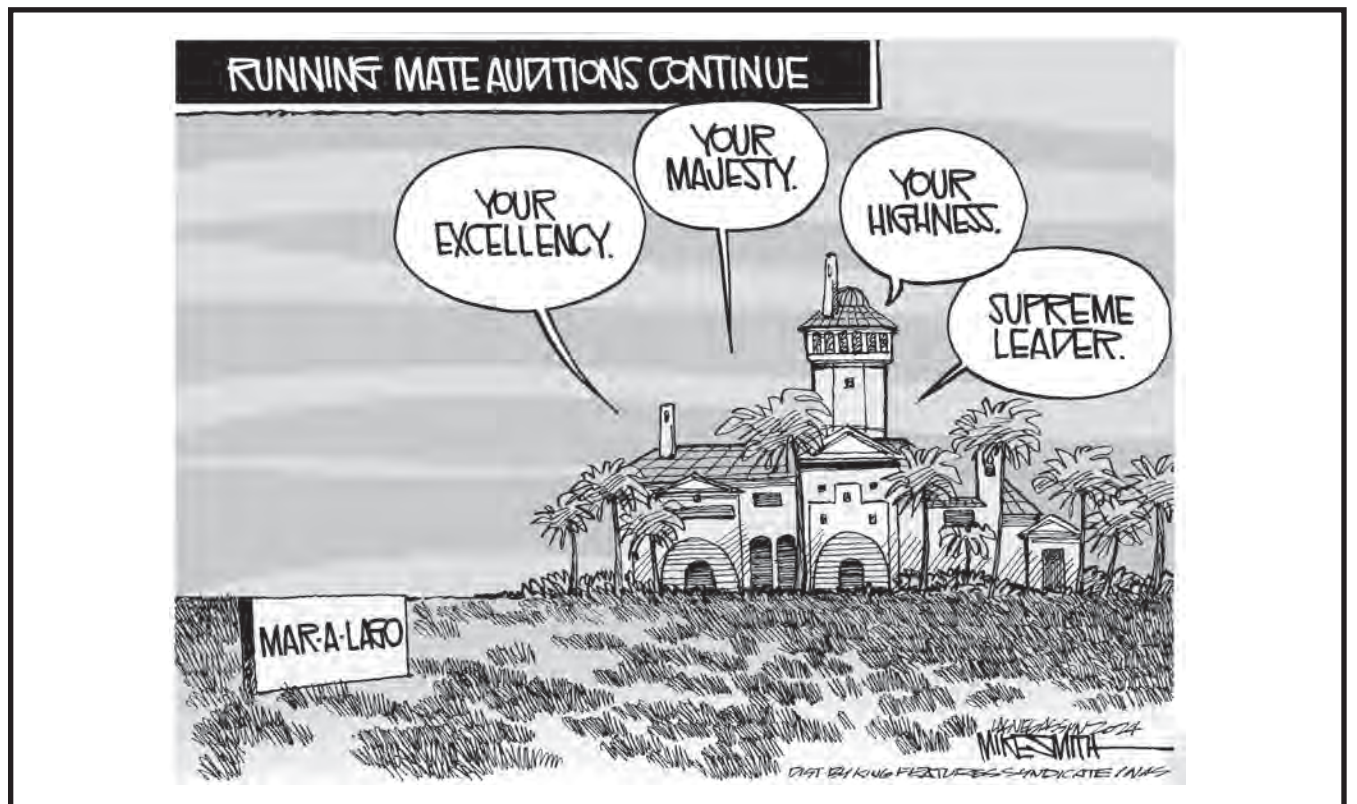
Defenders of the new law maintain that the commandments aren't solely a religious statement but a historical document of cultural principles ingrained in the laws of America and elsewhere over the ages.

That may apply to some of the commandments—the prohibitions on murder, theft and false witness, for example.

But what is an adherent to polytheist religions like Hinduism or Buddhism supposed to do with "Thou shalt have no other gods before me"? And what is an atheist supposed to do with any of it?

In fact, even many of the Judeo-Christian faithful may discover that with this law, Louisiana officially relegates their

See **WORSHIP** on Page 7



Is a wealth tax an income tax? Here's why that matters

Moore v. United States, Thursday's decision by the Supreme Court on the Mandatory Repatriation Tax, would seem to affect relatively few taxpayers. But in rejecting a constitutional challenge to the MRT (as it's known), the justices might have scattered some breadcrumbs about their attitudes toward a potentially more sweeping wealth tax.

The MRT was adopted in 2017 as part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The tax code has long treated passive income earned by "American-controlled foreign corporations" as attributable to U.S. shareholders even if the income has never been distributed. The MRT imposed a one-time tax on other income accumulated in the corporation and not distributed, including active business income, going back several years.

Critics immediately charged that the MRT was unconstitutional, and it was clear from the first that the issue was bound for the Supreme Court. The statute sparked such fierce debate not because many people care about how to account for undistributed overseas active business income, but because the answer was likely to have a lasting effect on the federal government's taxation power.

The lawsuit in question was brought by Charles and Kathleen Moore, whose \$40,000 investment in an American-owned foreign corporation in 2006 had by 2017 generated over \$500,000 in income accumulated but not distributed. They paid \$14,729 in taxes under the MRT and sued for a refund. That was the claim the court rejected.

OK, as I said: Few people will be affected. Yet Daniel J. Hemel, one of the nation's leading tax scholars, was right when he wrote last year, "[F]or almost everyone except the Moores themselves, the outcome in the case matters less than the reasoning that the justices embrace."

Why is the reasoning so important?

The power of Congress to levy taxes rests on two provisions of the Constitution. Under Article I, Section 9, Congress can impose certain taxes, but only "in Proportion to the Census of Enumeration." The 16th Amendment, adopted in 1913, created an exception for income taxes "without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration."

The Moores argued that because the accumulated income subject to the MRT had not been distributed, it was not realized, and thus did not qualify as income under the 16th Amendment. Therefore, they contended, the MRT should be apportioned among the states according to their population, rather than apportioned to individuals based on their income. The court, largely relying on precedent, disagreed.

What does this have to do with a wealth tax?

Consider: If a wealth tax does not qualify as an income tax under the 16th Amendment, then it must be apportioned among the states according to the census. In other words, the amount

By **STEPHEN L. CARTER**
Bloomberg Opinion

Stephen L. Carter is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist, a professor of law at Yale University and author of "Invisible: The Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America's Most Powerful Mobster."



due from each state must be (roughly) in line with that state's proportion of the U.S. population.

To see what this means in practice, consider Connecticut, where I live and work. At the time of the 2020 census, some 1.1% of all the people in the country lived in Connecticut. If the rule of proportionality applies, the state's residents, combined, could be assessed at most a smidgen more than 1% of a federal wealth tax. Yet according to Statista, some 9.4% of Connecticut households have net worths in the seven figures, the third highest rate in the country.

So, does Justice Brett Kavanaugh's majority opinion give us any hints on where the court might come out should the issue arise? A few — but they're just hints.

First, the principal argument against a wealth tax has long been that it is unconstitutional to tax unrealized income without apportionment. The court insisted that it was reserving that question for another day. But the majority goes out of its way to warn that a ruling for the Moores might doom such longstanding levies as the gift tax, and such newfangled rules as the pass-through tax on global intangible low-taxed income.

The result, declared the majority, would be fiscal disaster: "[T]hose tax provisions, if suddenly eliminated, would deprive the U.S. Government and the American people of trillions in lost tax revenue." (1) About this possibility, Justice Kavanaugh sounds the alarm: "The Constitution does not require fiscal calamity."

A hint that the justices might care how much revenue is raised? Maybe.

Second, opponents have long contended that a wealth tax would amount in many cases to double taxation. In Moore, the majority was careful to note that, at least with respect to undistributed corporate income, double taxation is off the table: "[N]othing in this opinion should be read to authorize any hypothetical congressional effort to tax both an entity and its shareholders or partners on the same undistributed income realized by the entity."

Finally, let's consider the separate opinions. Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson's concurrence leaves little doubt on where she stands: "[T]here is no constitutional requirement ... that a taxpayer 'be able to sever ... the gain from his original capital' in order

See **TAX** on Page 7

You know what might cool off North Korea's nuclear program? Balloons carrying K-pop

North Korea has signaled an escalation in its “balloon war” with South Korea over the past month, sending hundreds of inflatables southward with payloads of trash and manure.

A worthy South Korean response could involve using balloons to deliver upbeat news and K-pop music deep into the North—not just blasting it over loudspeakers at the border.

With the goal of reining in North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's ongoing pursuit of nuclear weapons, South Korea could launch a balloon-borne offensive to deliver a greater quantity of positive information about conditions in the outside world and especially in South Korea, along with the optimistic strains of K-pop and the sagas of K-dramas.

Once the South has shown Kim that it is willing and able to flood the North with such content, threats of a continuing deluge could inspire him to rethink his nuclear plans.

Here's why. In the recent past, Kim has become paranoid about his people being exposed to outside information, particularly details about cultural touchstones and lifestyle advances in South Korea.

North Korea is an impoverished and distressed country without freedoms, in contrast to its neighbor South Korea, a modern, globally engaged country with a population that enjoys freedom, opportunity and wealth. Showing the North Korean people how their counterparts to the south live would at the very least be destabilizing for the regime. Kim's recent behavior suggests that he is concerned that outside information is already contributing to instability in the North that could one day threaten his rule.

A new balloon offensive could threaten to repeatedly target Pyongyang with payloads of a million or so USB drives, each loaded with South Korean music and TV shows and with mes-

sages to the North Korean elite. The necessary inflatable delivery technology already exists: South Korean activists have developed “smart balloons” that could target USB drops over specific parts of Pyongyang and also carry speakers.

Such an offensive could prod North Korea toward shutting down one or more of its nuclear weapon production facilities or abandoning plans for a seventh nuclear weapon test—and South Korea should reward either move by ending the media bombardment. As long as Pyongyang refuses to yield in such meaningful ways, the drops should continue and expand.

A few years ago Kim called K-pop a “vicious cancer” corrupting the young in the North. His state media have warned that if left unchecked, it would make North Korea “crumble like a damp wall.” And what could be more scary to a third-generation dictator like Kim than having his regime crumble?

Kim apparently hopes that by portraying South Koreans as enemies of the North Korean people and imposing severe penalties on those consuming things from South Korea, he will be able to stop his people from learning about the outside world.

But these steps may only be delaying the inevitable: Many North Koreans don't buy the Kim regime's indoctrination, which risibly portrays North Korea as being a “utopia surrounded by a hellish outside world.”

Threatening an offensive featuring K-pop and other information deployed via balloons could be an important component of a campaign to influence the North Korean regime. In addition to million-drive airdrops, South Korea and the United States could use their media resources to support Korean-language reports about North Korean regime failures and human rights violations and the suffering of the North Korean people.

Washington and Seoul could also increase broadcasts into the

By **BRUCE W. BENNETT**

Los Angeles Times

Bruce W. Bennett is a senior international and defense researcher at Rand Corp., a nonprofit, nonpartisan research institution.



North in ways that would circumvent or overwhelm North Korean jamming. And they could threaten to continue and even increase the recently restarted broadcasts along the Demilitarized Zone, which Kim would find objectionable in part because many of the North Korean soldiers in that area are from elite families who live in Pyongyang, families Kim particularly wants to isolate from outside information.

Information efforts could also be increased elsewhere. For example, South Korea and the United States could distribute information and K-pop to North Korean diplomats and business people overseas, to North Korean front companies in various other countries, and to North Korean soldiers who are most likely on the Russian front lines supporting the use of North Korean artillery and missiles against Ukraine.

With survival of his regime on the line, the threat of an ongoing information campaign that relies on balloon drops, followed by the use of other technologies, could help prod Kim to step back from immediate plans such as another nuclear test and to rethink his overall nuclear ambitions. South Korea and the United States could tell Kim that if he does not accept a freeze on nuclear weapons production, his regime should be prepared to be rocked by a vast information offensive.

There is power in information, and Kim has repeatedly signaled that he is terrified by it. South Korea and the United States have few levers to apply against the North. Delivering information that could destabilize the regime is clearly one they should use.

Biden lands first blows in debate with Trump before it's even started

Joe Biden has landed the first blows in his debate with Donald Trump before it's even begun.

The CNN rules for the network's Atlanta studio showdown on June 27 are so stringent and slanted in Biden's favor that Trump may be hobbled in his attempts to engage the president in a real one-on-one debate and trip him up.

It's not surprising that Democratic toady CNN has tried to engineer a debate win for Biden, but more surprising that Trump's campaign was meek enough to agree to the rules.

The microphone of the candidate who isn't speaking will be muted throughout the debate, meaning Trump will be muted for much of the time. Four years ago, Trump repeatedly interrupted Biden, prompting Biden to infamously say “Will you shut up, man!”

The moderators for the debate—Democratic operatives Dana Bash and Jake Tapper—“will use all the tools at their disposal to enforce timing and ensure a civilized discussion,” according to CNN.

Which is exactly what Biden wants. Trump wants chaos and unpredictability.

But if Bash and Tapper appear to be silencing Trump unfairly, that could fire up the Republican troops and boost the former Republican president heading into the fall election season.

There will be no debate audience for Trump to feed off—a

provision that Biden's campaign insisted on.

Biden's campaign also asked for podiums for both candidates, which will protect the 81-year-old Democratic president from shuffling off or losing his place on stage.

The 90-minute debate on June 27 will include two commercial breaks, giving Biden a little time to take a respite if things get rough.

The candidates will also be provided with a pen and a pad of paper to take notes, which should help Biden if he loses focus.

And the timing of the debate—in the mid-summer doldrums months before election—will give Biden time to recover in case of a bad performance.

Another concession by Trump is that the debate will not include third party candidates like Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who polls show is hurting Biden's campaign. Kennedy has filed an official complaint hoping to be put in the debate.

By agreeing to CNN's debate, Trump and Biden are shunning the Commission on Presidential Debates, which has traditionally put on televised encounters for decades.

Trump ceded control of the debate by saying months ago that he would debate Biden at “any time, any place”—giving the Democrats the opening they needed to accept the invitation from CNN.

This is the first of only two debates between the candidates,

By **JOE BATTENFELD**

Boston Herald



and there is no VP debate scheduled.

Despite all the rules being slanted in his favor, Biden is taking a risk by agreeing to debate at all. A major gaffe or senior moment could send his campaign into a tailspin.

But it's a risk the Biden campaign is willing to take, given the fact that his low approval ratings remain a major problem for his re-election.

Just a passing performance for Biden could re-energize his campaign and ease voters' concerns about his age and mental acuity.

The second debate between Biden and Trump is scheduled for Sept. 10 on ABC. CBS is trying desperately to get into the picture by holding a VP debate.

TAX

From page 6

to be taxed on it.” Jackson concludes that the requirement that income be realized before it can be taxed is not a constitutional rule but “founded on administrative convenience.”

But four other justices—Justice Amy Coney Barrett in a concurrence joined by Justice Samuel Alito, and Justice Clarence Thomas in a dissent joined by Justice Neil Gorsuch—seem quite clearly of the view that the 16th Amendment exception applies only to realized income. Should they be presented with a wealth tax, all four would likely hold that it must be apportioned among the states. That would mean that Georgia, with roughly three

times the population of Connecticut, would have to pay three times as much in wealth taxes, even though there's much more wealth in Connecticut.

Maybe searching Supreme Court opinions for trails of breadcrumbs with which to predict how justices will vote in other cases seems like a fool's errand. Or maybe that's exactly why written opinions are useful.

WORSHIP

From page 6

beliefs to secondary status as well. The law specifies wording that religious scholars say generally represents a Protestant version of the commandments—a version distinct from those recognized by Catholics and Jews.

What is it that business conservatives always say about the free market? The government isn't supposed to pick winners and losers? Shouldn't something as complex and personal as faith have at least that level of insulation from government?

Allowing the religious beliefs of a few to dictate pub-

lic policy for everyone creates dangers that go beyond the merely philosophical.

The bluntly religious basis for Missouri's draconian abortion ban, for example, is obvious right there in its statutory language (“Almighty God is the author of life”) as well as in transcripts of the sermon-like legislative floor debate that preceded it.

A Missouri court's baffling ruling this month that the law doesn't improperly enshrine religious doctrine will be of little comfort to traumatized rape victims who now must flee Missouri if they need abortion services.

There's some irony in the fact that Louisiana's new law is fervently supported by the same conservative movement that has turned school board meetings into culture-war battlefields over

books and curriculum.






They argue that teaching racial history or gender issues in schools strays from legitimate education and into the realm of cultural indoctrination. But it's OK to force religious belief (and, in fact, one specific version of religious belief) into every classroom?

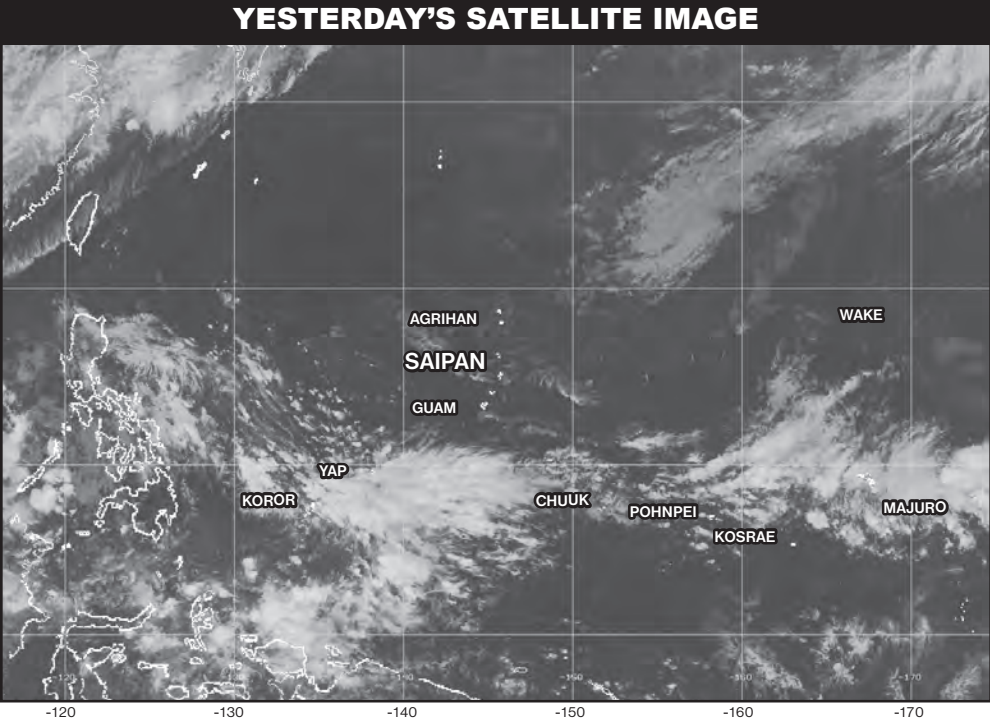
They should consider this: Most Americans, even fervent religious believers, presumably wouldn't support forcing Americans by law to send their kids to church.

Yet if this law stands, every public school student in Louisiana will face what amounts to a daily religious sermon — whether they (or their parents) like it or not.

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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
87°	78°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	78°



PICTURE TIME: 6:58 AM TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly cloudy to partly sunny skies and isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters. The Ritidian buoy reveals combined seas of 4 to 6 feet, composed mainly of a 3 to 5 foot east swell and wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 79°	
Palau	Cloudy	89° / 79°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 82°	
Chuuk	Cloudy	87° / 78°	
Pohnpei	Cloudy	89° / 80°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	88° / 83°	
Majuro	Cloudy	84° / 82°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:38 AM	10:39 PM
Thursday	-	10:36 AM	11:20 PM
Friday	-	11:32 AM	-
Saturday	12:00 AM	12:28 PM	-
Sunday	12:40 AM	1:24 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	63° / 55°	
Beijing	Fair	92° / 68°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	89° / 81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 74°	
London	Showers	72° / 55°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 62°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	92° / 79°	
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 41°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
New York	Clear	79° / 72°	
Osaka	Rain Shower	82° / 74°	
Paris	Showers	72° / 57°	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 68°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	81° / 61°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	81° / 60°	
San Francisco	Windy	65° / 52°	
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	82° / 64°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°	
Washington, DC	Clear	88° / 75°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:10 AM	Low Tide	1.50	
9:34 AM	High Tide	2.01	
5:05 PM	Low Tide	-0.12	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2024				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				
HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5	

ARRIVALS				
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily	
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7	
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily	
UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7	
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau	
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5	
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam	
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam	
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam	
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily	
INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN				
7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily	
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily	
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily	
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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SCS announces and congratulates Class of 2024



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Valedictorian Annabella Tudela.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Salutatorian Jose Peter T. Sablan.

The Saipan Community School Class of 2024 poses for a group photo during their graduation ceremony at the Hibiscus Hall of the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

Saipan Community School is thrilled to announce and celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2024. This exceptional group of students has demonstrated remarkable dedication, perseverance, and academic excellence throughout their time at SCS. The graduation ceremony featured inspiring speeches and presentations, including a class video presentation by Emma Sablan and Mickaella Yang.

Ray Patrick P. McDonald, the SCS STUCO president,

delivered the president’s address and the graduation address was given by educator Debbra Flores.

The following are the recipients of this year’s special awards:

- Scholar Athlete Award: Richard Zhao. This award recognizes Zhao’s outstanding ability to balance academic excellence with participation in multiple community sports and athletics both inside and outside of school.
- Citizenship Award:

Elin Kim. This award honors Kim’s exemplary qualities and characteristics of a good citizen among her classmates.

- Salutatorian: Jose Peter T. Sablan.
- Valedictorian: Annabella Jelyn M. Tudela.

In her valedictorian speech, Tudela reflected on the journey through middle school, expressing gratitude to her family, friends, and the SCS staff for their unwavering support. She encouraged her fellow graduates to embrace challenges, strive for excellence, and cherish their memories at SCS. Tudela shared her personal story of perseverance, urging her classmates to never give up and always pursue their dreams.


Sablan, the salutatorian, shared a touching lesson on appreciating the present and the people around us. Drawing from his experiences in the SCS band and a favorite game, Brawl Stars, Sablan illustrated the importance of choosing

one’s path and striving for success. His heartfelt thanks went out to his family, friends, and the SCS community for their continuous support.

The Saipan Community School Class of 2024 includes the following graduates: Ian Chae, Sen Huang, Soo Ho Jin, Christine Kim, Elin Kim, Patrick McDonald, Daniel Nae, Ji Hun Park, Emma Sablan, Jose Sablan, Erine So, Annabella Tudela, Mickaella Yang, and Richard Zhao.

“Saipan Community

School is immensely proud of the Class of 2024 and their remarkable achievements. We are confident that they will continue to excel in their future endeavors and make significant contributions to their communities. Congratulations, SCS Class of 2024,” said SCS in a statement. **(PR)**



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 08-2024

Opening date: June 24, 2024

Closing date: July 12, 2024

Location: SAIPAN

Position(s): (1) ARFF Mechanic II
(1) Executive/Board Secretary

SALARY

PL 6/1 to 6/12 (\$9.27/hr to \$15.85/hr)
PL 17/1 to 17/12 (\$15.85/hr to \$27.12/hr)

Location: TINIAN

Position(s): (4) AOA Controllor/Ground Maintenance-I

SALARY

PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)

Location: ROTA SEAPORT

Position(s): (1) General Maintenance-II

SALARY

PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)


Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, July 12, 2024.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerity, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.


CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA

Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-24-026

CUSTOMIZED SEWER LINE INSPECTION & GROUTING TRUCK ACQUISITION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified Vendors for the Customized Sewer Line Inspection & Grouting Truck Acquisition in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The IFB Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-24-026, Customized Sewer Line Inspection & Grouting Truck Acquisition”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 3, 2024** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal, or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time or post-marked before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this IFB should consider all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the proponent’s obligation upon award of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 10, 2024**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC’s Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Rodolfo Rodriguez, Water/Wastewater Division Manager via email rodolfo.rodriguez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bidders for any reason and to waive any defects in said IFB, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE

Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN

Purchasing Administrator

Nation

Trump changes tone on Biden being incompetent

NEW YORK (AP)—After months of casting President Joe Biden as a shell of a man incapable of putting two sentences together, Donald Trump has changed his tune days before their first debate.

“I assume he’s going to be somebody that will be a worthy debater,” the former president and presumptive Republican nominee said in an appearance on “The All-In” podcast last week.

“I don’t want to underestimate him,” he added.

The changed rhetoric marks a dramatic shift from how Trump typically describes the man he will face in a rematch this November. At his rallies and in speeches, Trump typically casts the Democratic incumbent as a “low-IQ individual” who is “the worst, most incompetent, and most corrupt president” in the nation’s history, and often imitates Biden appearing lost on stage.

The effort to adjust expectations ahead of Thursday’s matchup in Atlanta comes amid concerns from some in his party that Trump has set the bar so low for Biden that he is sure to exceed it. And it underscores the stakes for both men in a race

that has appeared largely static for months.

Millions are expected to tune in Thursday, offering a rare opportunity for both sides to try to gain momentum in a contest that will likely be decided by a small fraction of voters in a handful of battleground states.

Trump—who has never admitted he lost fairly to Biden in 2020 and continues to spread false and unproven theories about election fraud—may also be setting up a series of excuses in case he is outperformed by Biden.

“Maybe I’m better off losing the debate,” Trump quipped in an interview with Real America’s Voice earlier this month. “I’ll make sure he stays. I’ll lose the debate on purpose, maybe I’ll do something like that.”

It’s not just Trump who has been talking up Biden. On Sunday, North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, one of Trump’s chief surrogates and a top vice presidential contender, pointed to the president’s experience on the debate stage.

“This guy has got the ability,” he said on CNN’s “State of the Union.” “We have seen

him in the State of the Union this year, that, when he needs to, he can step up.”

At the same time, Trump and his campaign have ramped up their attacks on the debate’s moderators, insisting the former president won’t be given a fair shake by CNN, which will be hosting the debate. Both campaigns accepted CNN’s invitation after deciding to sidestep the nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates, which had hosted debates for decades.

“I’ll be debating three people instead of one half of a person,” Trump said at a rally in Racine, Wisconsin, last week.

On Monday, one of the network’s hosts, Kasie Hunt, cut off Trump spokesperson Karoline Leavitt and ended their segment after Leavitt attacked Jake Tapper, the anchor who will moderate along with Dana Bash, accusing him of being biased against Trump.

The episode “shows that exactly what we’re saying is true, that CNN is not a friendly Trump network, and it won’t be friendly to him on Thursday night,” Leavitt said after the incident on FOX Radio’s “FOX Across America.”

More rain possible in deluged Midwest as flooding kills 2

NORTH SIOUX CITY, S.D. (AP)—More storms are possible in parts of the deluged Midwest, where flooding after days of heavy rains has killed at least two people, sent a river surging around a dam and forced evacuations and rescues.

Severe storms were forecast for Tuesday afternoon and evening with large hail, damaging winds and even a brief tornado or two in parts of western Iowa and eastern Nebraska, according to the National Weather Service. Showers and storms are also possible in parts of South Dakota and Minnesota, the agency said.

Flooding in those states has also come during a vast and stubborn heat wave. Some communities hit by flooding were under an excessive heat warning Monday with temperatures approaching 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 Celsius). Dangerous hot, muggy weather was expected again Tuesday around the Omaha area.

More than 3 million people live in areas touched by flood-

ing, from Omaha, Nebraska, to St. Paul, Minnesota. Storms dumped huge amounts of rain from Thursday through Saturday, with as much as 18 inches (46 centimeters) falling south of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, according to the National Weather Service.

Places that didn’t get as much rain had to contend with the extra water moving downstream. Many streams, especially with additional rainfall, may not crest until later this week as the floodwaters slowly drain down a web of rivers to the Missouri and Mississippi. The Missouri will crest at Omaha on Thursday, said Kevin Low, a weather service hydrologist.

On Saturday, an Illinois man died while trying to drive around a barricade in Spencer, Iowa, Sioux City’s KTIV-TV reported Monday. The Little Sioux River swept his truck away, the Clay County Sheriff’s Office said. Officials recovered his body Monday.

At least one person died in South Dakota, Gov. Kristi Noem said without providing details.

“I’ve never had to evacuate my house,” Hank Howley, a 71-year-old North Sioux City, South Dakota, resident said as she joined others on a levee of the swollen Big Sioux River, where a railroad bridge collapsed a day earlier. She did not have to evacuate in recent days either, but said: “We’re on the highest spot in town. But what good is that when the rest of the town is flooded? It makes me nervous.”

The bridge connected North Sioux City, South Dakota, with Sioux City, Iowa, and fell into the Big Sioux River around 11 p.m. Sunday, officials said. Images on local media showed a large span of the steel bridge partially underwater as floodwaters rushed over it.

There were no reports of injuries from the collapse. The bridge’s owner, BNSF Railway, had stopped operating it as a precaution during the flooding, spokesperson Kendall Sloan said. The railroad said the bridge was used by only a few trains per day and did not expect rerouting to have a significant impact.

World

Assange will plead guilty

WASHINGTON (AP)—WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange will plead guilty to a felony charge in a deal with the U.S. Justice Department that will allow him to walk free and resolve a long-running legal saga that spanned multiple continents and centered on the publication of a trove of classified documents.

Assange left a British prison on Monday and will appear later this week in the U.S. federal court in the Northern Mariana Islands, a U.S. commonwealth in the Western Pacific. He’s expected to plead guilty to an Espionage Act charge of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified national defense information, the Justice Department said in a letter filed in court.

The guilty plea, which must be approved by a judge, brings an abrupt conclusion to a criminal case of international intrigue and to the U.S. government’s years-long pursuit of a publisher whose hugely popular secret-sharing website made

» Deal with US will allow him to walk free

him a cause célèbre among many press freedom advocates who said he acted as a journalist to expose U.S. military wrongdoing. Investigators, by contrast, have repeatedly asserted that his actions broke laws meant to protect sensitive information and put the country’s national security at risk.

He is expected to return to his home country of Australia after his plea and sentencing, which is scheduled for Wednesday morning, local time in Saipan, the largest island in the Northern Mariana Islands. The hearing is taking place there because of Assange’s opposition to traveling to the continental U.S. and the court’s proximity to Australia, prosecutors said.

Attorneys for Assange didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment on Monday.

In a statement posted on X, WikiLeaks said Assange boarded a plane and departed the United Kingdom on Monday after leaving the British prison, where he has spent the last five years. WikiLeaks applauded the announcement of the deal, saying it was grateful for



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange speaks on the balcony of the Ecuadorean Embassy in London, Feb. 5, 2016. AP

“all who stood by us, fought for us, and remained utterly committed in the fight for his freedom.”

“WikiLeaks published groundbreaking stories of government corruption and human rights abuses, holding the powerful accountable for their actions. As editor-in-chief, Julian paid severely for these principles, and for the people’s right to know,” WikiLeaks said.

The deal ensures that Assange will admit guilt while also sparing him from any additional prison time. He had spent years hiding out in the Ecuadorian embassy in London after Swedish authorities sought his arrest on rape allegations before being locked up in the United Kingdom.

Assange is expected to be sentenced to the five years he has already spent in the high-security British prison while fighting to avoid extradition to the U.S. to face charges, a process that has played out in a series of hearings in London. Last month, he won the right to appeal an extradition order after his lawyers argued that the U.S. government provided “blatantly inadequate” assurances that he would have the same free speech protections as an American citizen if extradited from Britain.

Assange has been heralded by many around the world as a hero who brought to light military wrongdoing in Iraq and Afghanistan. Among the files published by WikiLeaks was a video of a 2007 Apache helicopter attack by American forces in Baghdad that killed 11 people, including two Reuters journalists.

But his reputation was also tarnished by rape allegations, which he has denied.

The Justice Department’s indictment unsealed in 2019

accused Assange of encouraging and helping U.S. Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning steal diplomatic cables and military files that WikiLeaks published in 2010. Prosecutors had accused Assange of damaging national security by publishing documents that harmed the U.S. and its allies and aided its adversaries.

Prosecutors said in a charging document filed in connection with the plea agreement that Assange conspired with Manning to receive and obtain documents, notes and other writings related to the national defense and to “willfully communicate” those records. The document takes care to note that Assange was “not a United States citizen, did not possess a U.S. security clearance, and did not have authorization to possess, access, or control documents, writings, or notes relating to the national defense of the United States, including classified information.”

The case was lambasted by press advocates and Assange supporters. Federal prosecutors defended it as targeting conduct that went way beyond that of a journalist gathering information, amounting to an attempt to solicit, steal and indiscriminately publish classified government documents. It was brought even though the Obama administration Justice Department had passed on prosecuting him years earlier.

The plea agreement comes months after President Joe Biden said he was considering a request from Australia to drop the U.S. push to prosecute Assange. The White House was not involved in the decision to resolve Assange’s case, according to a White House official who was not authorized to speak publicly about the case and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Life & Style

Taylor Swift brings out Travis Kelce at London Eras Tour date

Taylor Swift had a surprise for fans attending her Eras Tour at London's Wembley Stadium on Sunday: her boyfriend and tight end for the Super Bowl-winning Kansas City Chiefs, Travis Kelce.

Dressed in a tuxedo with a tailcoat and top hat, Kelce joined Swift on stage for a transitional sketch that leads into the song "I Can Do It With a Broken Heart." In fan videos, he's seen carrying Swift, urging her into a costume change. He fanned and powdered her face as part of the act.

Last month, in her first Eras Tour concert since the release of "The Tortured Poets Department," Swift shook up her



Taylor Swift performs at Wembley Stadium as part of her Eras Tour on Friday, June 21, 2024 in London.

setlist. At the La Défense Arena in Paris, fans were treated to the inclusion of new songs from the record-breaking album released in April.

The billion-dollar Eras Tour is meant to be a career retro-

spective, with Swift performing more than 40 tracks reflecting 17 years of recorded music. "The Tortured Poets Department" was her first brand-new release since the tour's start. (AP)

Judge to decide house arrest or bail for ex-gang leader accused in Tupac killing

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A Nevada judge is being asked to decide Tuesday if a former Los Angeles-area gang leader will be freed from jail to house arrest ahead of his murder trial in the 1996 killing of hip-hop music legend Tupac Shakur in Las Vegas.

Duane "Keffe D" Davis, now 61, has sought to be released since shortly after his arrest last September made him the only person ever charged with a crime in a killing that for 27 years has drawn intense interest and speculation.

Prosecutors allege the gunfire that killed Shakur stemmed from competition between East Coast members of a Bloods gang sect and West Coast groups of a Crips sect, including Davis, for dominance in a musical genre known at the time as "gangsta rap."

Davis' defense attorney, Carl Arnold, declined by telephone Monday to speak ahead of a hearing before Clark County District Court Judge Carli Kierny in Las Vegas.

The judge has said Davis—a self-described former leader of a Crips gang sect in the Los Angeles suburb of

Compton, California—can be freed on \$750,000 bond if he can demonstrate that funds used to secure his release were obtained legally.

Representatives at Crum & Forster Insurance and North River Insurance Co., the Morristown, New Jersey-based backer of the bond identified in the court filing, have not responded to telephone messages from The Associated Press.

Davis told Kierny in court in February that backers were "hesitant to come in here and help me out on the bail because of the media and the circus that's going on."

Kierny's decision in January to set a bail amount came after prosecutors and Davis' defense lawyers traded allegations about whether the word "green light" recorded by authorities monitoring an October jailhouse telephone conversation between Davis and his son was evidence of threats to witnesses in the case, or showed danger faced by Davis' family members.

Davis has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder. His trial is scheduled Nov. 4. If convicted, he could spend the rest of his life in prison.

Baldwin attorneys argue damage to gun during testing unacceptable destruction of evidence

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—Alec Baldwin's defense attorneys argued Monday that damage done during FBI testing to a revolver that killed a cinematographer on the set of the Western "Rust" has stripped them of the ability to put on a proper defense at the actor's forthcoming trial, and asked a New Mexico judge to dismiss the involuntary manslaughter charge against him.

"They understood that this was potentially exculpatory evidence and they destroyed it anyway," Baldwin lawyer John Bash said during a virtual court hearing. "It's outrageous and it requires dismissal."

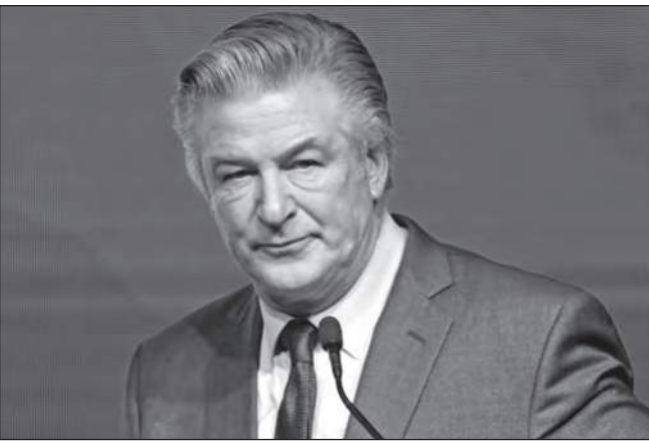
Prosecutors argued that the gun breaking into pieces during testing was "unfortunate"

but that Baldwin's team still has plenty of evidence for a defense and did not meet their burden for having the case thrown out.

Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer said she expects to issue a ruling on the motion to dismiss on Friday.

During the fatal rehearsal on Oct. 21, 2021, Baldwin was pointing the gun at Halyna Hutchins on a movie-set ranch when it went off, killing her and wounding director Joel Souza, who survived.

Sheriff's investigators initially sent the revolver to the FBI only for DNA testing, but when an FBI analyst heard Baldwin say in an ABC TV interview in December that he never pulled the trigger, the agency told



Alec Baldwin emcees the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Ripple of Hope Award Gala at New York Hilton Midtown on Dec. 9, 2021, in New York.

the local authorities they could conduct an accidental discharge test.

The FBI was told to go ahead, and tested the re-

volver by striking it from several angles with a rawhide mallet. One of those strikes caused the gun to break into three pieces.

Wife refuses to repeat husband's tall tales

DEAR ABBY: My husband of almost 40 years is not well. He has been a good provider, but his life stories are heavily laced with lies. That has been very difficult for me to live with.

I believe he will die before I do, and I'm uncomfortable about holding a service for him. His obituary would be filled with half-truths and lies. Because of his work positions, it would be expected that we have a service. I wouldn't know what to say without the probability of repeating his lies. Have you any suggestions on how this could be handled?

LIAR'S WIFE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR WIFE: As a matter of fact, I do. When a husband dies, the person who is usually responsible for the creation of his obituary is his SPOUSE. If you want it to be truthful, do not repeat his lies. State his age and place of birth. Mention his parents and siblings. Say that you and his children (if there are any) are mourning the loss of a loving, caring husband and father. Omit ANYthing that has to do with his work life. As to having a public service, no law says you must. You can have a graveside service for family only.

DEAR ABBY: Last week, I wasn't looking my best at the laundromat. An ex-coworker, who I haven't seen in longer than I worked with them—and who never liked me—decided to

sneak an unflattering photo of me. I'm guessing it was to show my old employer, who also never really liked me.

This has shattered my already fragile self-esteem. I've been depressed and stressed about this, and I don't know how to let it go and move forward. My friends and boyfriend say this person is jealous and I should forget it. I've been really low and struggling to do that.

I hadn't run into either of these people in eight years in our neighborhood, but I worry they could spread this photo around and damage my professional reputation and business. Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

CAUGHT OFF-GUARD

DEAR CAUGHT: Listen to the good advice you received from your friends and boyfriend. You have blown this completely out of proportion. People (regardless of their profession) are not required to be glamorous at the laundromat.

DEAR ABBY: I met a man, and we started seeing each other, but I'm not really sure about him. He's a cross-dresser. I have tried to accept it, but I honestly don't think I can. It turns me off. I don't find it attractive, and I don't know if I could ever be OK with it.

I don't know how to tell him. I don't want to hurt him, but I just can't bring myself to be sensual with him. What's the best

DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



way to explain this without hurting his feelings? I don't want to lose his friendship.

NOT MY THING IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR NOT MY THING: Tell the man that you like him very much and would like to remain friends, but that you feel friends are all you are destined to be. If he presses you further or needs a reason, tell him the chemistry isn't there. It is the truth.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

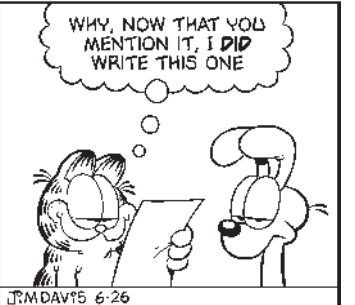
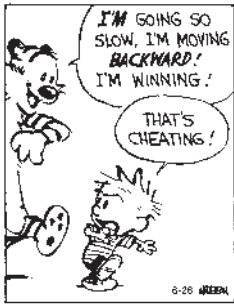
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

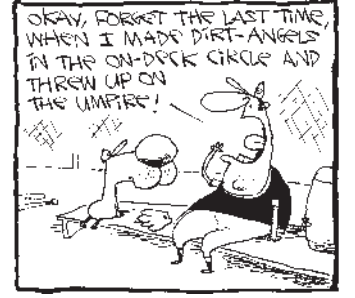


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Attempt
5 Badly lit
8 Border on
12 Swiss river
13 Perfect serve
14 Stratum
15 Course summary
17 AOL and MSN
18 Capital of South Korea
19 007 foe
21 Heart of the matter
24 Equal (Pref.)
25 Gym site, for short
28 Pride member
30 "Avatar" craft
33 Tic-tac-toe win
34 Our, in Arles
35 Sun-bather's goal
36 Zilch
37 Wall St. debuts
38 Marries
39 Trojans' sch.

DOWN

41 Tart
43 Laundry container
46 Yeshiva teacher
50 French cleric
51 Restricted road areas
54 Man-handle
55 — pickle
56 Old salts
57 May-flower pole
58 Try the tea
59 Sex educator
62 Diggs of "Rent"

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-26

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ariana Grande, 31; Ryan Tedder, 45; Derek Jeter, 50; Chris O'Donnell, 54.

Happy Birthday: Learn as you go, and you'll develop innovative ideas that will crescendo into healthy nuances that encourage you to be the best version of yourself. Turn this year into one of personal growth, finding your bliss and making your dreams come true. Your happiness is your responsibility, and change is on the horizon if you up your game and participate in life and love. Your numbers are 7, 12, 18, 27, 30, 38, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Temperatures will rise as talks heat up. Know what you are getting into before you banter with someone you love. You stand to lose if you force your will on others. Consider consequences before you engage in battle. Compromise will be your best route forward. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Find the tribe that makes you feel alive and helps you complete your mission. Who you connect with emotionally will offer insight into your best way forward; however, be cautious if anyone wants you to donate or buy something you cannot afford or don't need. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stick to basics and take a moment to digest what's said or done before reacting. Direct your energy into helping a cause or someone you love, but promise only what you know you can deliver. Someone will turn on you quickly if you disappoint them. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a detour and discover something exciting. Visit a travel agent, set a new goal or start an adventure that broadens your perspective and captures your attention. You are experiencing a

mental growth spurt, so let your curiosity take you beyond daydreaming. Shake things up. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Search for organizations, people and information that can help you create an opportunity to start a project, address a concern or change your lifestyle to fit your budget. Don't take anything for granted. Oversee every detail and try to do much of the work yourself. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A change of heart, direction or location will spark your imagination and encourage you to take a chance if it will get you closer to your goal. You have plenty to offer, and the conversations you initiate with experts will help you decide on the possibilities. Romance is favored. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Explore your options, see what or who is at your disposal, and be willing to pitch in and help. You must surround yourself with positive energy if you don't want to become discouraged. A positive attitude will open doors, and a negative influence will shut them down. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep moving forward until you are happy with the results. Use your intelligence and magic to inspire others to recognize your worth. A change is within reach, and you will succeed with the right team of people and excellent plans. Personal gain and romance are in the stars. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Confusion will occur if you aren't clear. Don't exaggerate or allow anyone to misinterpret what you are trying to convey. You have a window of opportunity, and it's crucial you use every moment to build a solid foundation for your dreams, hopes and wishes. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Draw the line between work and pleasure. Put your heart into whatever you do, and you'll encourage others to give back as much as you. A partnership can enhance your love life and your bank account. A change of location, plans or lifestyle will be beneficial. ****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can push hard, but if you don't have everything in place, using force won't help. Take your time and figure out how to use your skills before spotlighting your goal. An opportunity is helpful only if you have the wherewithal to take advantage. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your eye on what's happening at home. Observe, ask questions and do your best to rectify any troubled waters requiring damage control. It's worthwhile to go the extra mile to ward off unwanted expenses. Keep the peace and alter whatever is necessary to accommodate loved ones. ***



Birthday Baby: You are caring, objective and innovative. You are persistent and helpful.



☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

7	6							5
			2			7	3	6
			4				1	
		3		1	9		2	
	8	4	3		2		6	
2			6					9
4		6		8				3
		8			6			4
3	1			4		9		

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	8	7	5	2	6	1	9	3
1	9	5	4	8	3	6	7	2
3	6	2	9	7	1	5	4	8
2	3	6	1	5	9	7	8	4
5	4	8	3	6	7	9	2	1
7	1	9	8	4	2	3	5	6
8	7	4	6	3	5	2	1	9
6	5	1	2	9	4	8	3	7
9	2	3	7	1	8	4	6	5

Difficulty: ★★★ 6/26
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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SKITTLES Solution: 8 letters

C A M P A I G N N I T A L E G
C R A S P B E R R Y T R O G I
O H O P Y D N A C O I P A T F
V A O W P I N K G I C L A S T
E L K I D S A R U K A S O O N
R L D H C S E D S X T L C U A
E O E C A E E W Y E I K C R R
D W X N N T E R G D S C A T R
D E T U A E R N H C I A S W U
E E R M T E A S A S X N I C
P N I E B R L B D G I S O T K
P N N D O S T O R E E T N T C
A E L O G O S R A M R V I E A
R I N T E N S E A S U G A R L
W R I G L E Y G R E N E T I B

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Animated, Bags, Bite, Blackcurrant, British, Campaign, Candy, Choice, Covered, Crowds, Dextrin, Energy, Galaxy, Games, Gelatin, Gift, Green, Halloween, Intense, Kids, Logo, Mars, Munch, Occasion, Orange, Pink, Raspberry, Reds, Sakura, Six, Snack, Solid, Sour, Store, Sugar, Sweetener, Tapioca, Taste, Twitter, Vegan, Wild Berry, Wrapped, Wrigley
Yesterday's Answer: Register
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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Phillies complete a 1-3-5 triple play in a win over the Tigers



DETROIT
(AP)—Bryce Harper homered, doubled twice,

drove in five runs and helped turn a triple play as the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Detroit Tigers 8-1 on Monday night.

Alec Bohm had four hits, including a homer, and was also involved in the triple play for the big league-best Phillies (52-26).

Philadelphia took a 4-0 lead before Detroit starter Casey Mize recorded an out. Kyle Schwarber started the game with a routine grounder to short, but Zach McKinstry misplayed it. Trea Turner followed with a flared double to right and Harper hit a two-run double into the right-center gap.

Bohm made it 4-0 with a home run to left and Nick Castellanos singled before Mize recovered to retire the next three hitters.

“With (Aaron) Nola on the mound tonight, we knew we just needed to get him something early,” Harper said. “That’s why it was huge to jump on Mize in the first inning.”

Nola (8-4) won the 99th game of his career, allowing one run on six hits in seven innings and starting the third-inning triple play. Michael Mercado pitched a perfect eighth in his MLB debut.

Mize (1-6) allowed four runs, three earned on nine hits, in 4 1/3 innings. He struck out a career-high 10 batters.

“It’s obviously a mixed bag for him,” Tigers manager A.J. Hinch said. “He did a lot of good things, especially the second time through the order, but he also had a tough time getting into the game.”

The Phillies have won three straight by a combined score of 24-3. Detroit was held to fewer than three runs for the eighth time in 10 games.

Detroit’s best chance at a rally came in the third, when singles by McKinstry and Carson Kelly put runners on the corners with no one out. But Matt Vierling hit a broken-bat liner back to Nola, who tossed to Harper at first for a double play.

Catcher Garrett Stubbs, noticing McKinstry had never stopped running from third, signaled to Harper to throw to third, where Bohm stepped on the bag to finish the 1-3-5 triple play.

“I don’t know if it was the bat breaking, but (McKinstry) definitely thought the ball hit the ground,” Hinch said. “He held up until Nola threw to first, and then he was sprinting home. He just misread the play.”

It was the first 1-3-5 triple play in the majors since the Tigers turned one against the Red Sox on July 11, 1929, Major League Baseball said, citing the Society for American Baseball Research.

“That was a pretty cool moment for all of us,” Harper said. “It was like going back to Little League, we were so excited.”

Carson’s fifth-inning single scored McKinstry to make it 4-1, but Harper’s three-run homer in the sixth gave Philadelphia a 7-1 lead. Bohm drove in Harper again with an eighth-inning double.



Philadelphia Phillies' Alec Bohm rounds the bases after hitting a two-run home run against the Detroit Tigers during the first inning of a baseball game Monday, June 24, 2024, in Detroit. AP

GUARDIANS 3, ORIOLES 2

BALTIMORE (AP)—José Ramírez hit a tiebreaking homer in the sixth inning, and Cleveland won their sixth straight game beating Baltimore.

Tanner Bibee (6-2) allowed one earned run in six innings for the Guardians, who were able to protect their slim lead without using highly worked closer Emmanuel Clase. Tim Herrin and Hunter Gaddis worked the seventh and eighth, and Scott Barlow struck out the side in the ninth for his second save.

Cleveland’s Steven Kwan went 1 for 3, lowering his average to .389.

RAYS 4, MARINERS 3

ST. PETERBURG, Fla. (AP)—Yandy Díaz had a two-run single in a three-run eighth inning and Tampa Bay rallied to beat Seattle.

Ben Rortvedt’s two-out RBI double in the eighth off Austin Voth (2-2) cut Tampa Bay’s deficit to 3-2. Closer Andrés Muñoz loaded the bases with a walk to José Caballero, and Díaz followed with a tough-hop single to right.

Phil Maton (1-2) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings, and Pete Fairbanks worked the ninth for his 12th save in 14 chances.

Mitch Garver and Cal Raleigh homered for the Mariners, who are 2-5 on a nine-game trip.

REDS 11, PIRATES 5

CINCINNATI (AP)—Ellie De La Cruz hit a long homer and had three RBIs, Spencer Steer drove in three runs and Cincinnati routed Pittsburgh.

Two-run doubles by Steer and Stuart Fairchild paced a five-run fourth inning for the Reds, who had scored just three total in dropping two of three to the Pirates last week in Pittsburgh.

Reds outfielder Levi Jordan, who made his major league debut at age 28, collected his first RBI on a sac-

rifice fly in the fourth inning. He had his first hit in the sixth, a double off the wall in right field, and eventually scored.

De La Cruz’s big hit also came in the sixth following a one-out double by Jonathan India. The 22-year-old shortstop hit a 1-0 cutter from reliever Daulton Jefferies 439 feet on to a seating area on top of the building that houses the batter’s eye in straight-away center field.

Carson Spiers (1-1), starting for just the second time this season, got Cincinnati through six innings, allowing three runs and six hits while striking out five.

Pirates starter Bailey Falter (3-6) retired Cincinnati in order in the first three innings but ran into trouble in the fourth, eventually giving up four earned runs and five hits.

BOSTON 7, BLUE JAYS 6

BOSTON (AP)—Jarren Duran drove in Cedanne Rafaela with a ninth-inning single to help Boston cap a furious rally and beat Toronto.

Rafael Devers and David Hamilton both added a two-run home runs for Boston, which has won 10 of its last 12 and is a season-high seven games over .500 at 43-36.

Toronto’s seven-game losing streak is its longest since September 2019.

Kenley Jansen (3-1) pitched a scoreless inning to get the win.

CARDINALS 4, BRAVES 3

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Brendan Donovan had three hits with an RBI and Lance Lynn pitched into the seventh inning, lifting St. Louis over Atlanta Braves for their fourth straight win and ninth in 12 games.

“To beat that ballclub, and that’s a really good ballclub over there, that’s a good night,” St. Louis manager Oliver Marmol said.

St. Louis is 25-13 after a 15-24 start, moving three games over .500

for the first time since the end of the 2022 season.

Atlanta had won eight of its previous 10 games.

DODGERS 3, WHITE SOX 0

CHICAGO (AP)—James Paxton combined with four relievers on a five-hitter, and the Los Angeles beat Chicago.

Los Angeles was shut down by Garrett Crochet, but got to Chicago’s shaky bullpen for three runs. The NL West leaders won for the sixth time in eight games.

Paxton struck out six while working five innings of three-hit ball. The left-hander is 2-0 with a 1.00 ERA over his last three starts.

Daniel Hudson (4-1), Yohan Ramírez and Evan Phillips each got three outs before Alex Vesia handled the ninth for his fourth save in five chances.

ROYALS 4, MARLINS 1

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Cole Ragans struck out 11 for his first win in a month, and Kansas City beat Miami for just their fourth win in 15 games.

Vinnie Pasquantino, Salvador Perez and Hunter Renfroe hit solo homers off Roddery Muñoz (1-3), who has allowed six home runs in his last 10 innings.

Ragans (5-5) allowed one run, four hits and three walks in six innings. He had been 0-2 in five starts since beating Detroit on May 22.

Kansas City pitchers struck out a season-high 15.

BREWERS 6, RANGERS 3

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Rhys Hoskins put Milwaukee ahead for good with a grand slam during a five-run rally in the sixth inning and the Brewers beat Texas to snap the Rangers’ four-game winning streak.

Adolis García homered for the Rangers.

Milwaukee pounded the Rangers’ bullpen after Texas’ Michael Lorenzen held the Brewers scoreless for the first four innings. Milwaukee’s Jackson Chourio raced home on Lorenzen’s two-out wild pitch in the fifth to end a streak of 26 straight shutout innings by Rangers pitchers.

ANGELS 5, ATHLETICS 1

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Taylor Ward hit a two-run homer, Griffin Canning pitched seven strong innings and the Los Angeles Angels beat Oakland.

Ward gave the Angels a 2-0 lead with his drive to right field in the first inning and he had a ninth-inning leaping catch at the wall for the second consecutive game. He did the same at Dodger Stadium on Saturday.

Zach Neto, Luis Rengifo and Willie Calhoun each had a pair of hits and Neto scored twice.

The Angels, 25th in the majors with their 4.03 runs per game, got more than enough Monday thanks to Canning’s strong outing.

Canning (3-8) gave up one earned run and struck out five. He allowed just five hits, including Tyler Nevin’s first-pitch home run in the second inning.

The A’s have lost three straight games and four of the last five. The Angels had lost three of four. In the two-run third, Logan O’Hoppe drove in a run with a sacrifice fly and Ward scored on an error.

PADRES 7, NATIONALS 6, 10 INNINGS

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Jurickson Profar’s two-run, bases-loaded single with two outs in the 10th inning lifted San Diego to a wild victory over Washington.

Profar’s hit into the right-center gap bounced over the fence. Profar rounded first base, swerved toward the infield celebration, pulled off his helmet and raised his arms in the air.

The winning hit came five batters after Jackson Merrill hit a two-run single to center off Hunter Harvey (2-3).

The Padres hadn’t had a baserunner since the third inning. Wandy Peralta (2-1) got the win.

The Nationals had taken a 6-3 lead in the top of the 10th when Keibert Ruiz doubled in a run and Nick Senzel followed with a two-run homer to left.

GIANTS 5, CUBS 4

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Wilmer Flores drew a bases loaded walk in the ninth, capping a wild comeback as San Francisco snapped a five-game skid with a victory over the Chicago Cubs.

Matt Chapman homered and started the rally with a bloop double off Colten Brewer.

Flores was the eighth Giants player to bat in the ninth. His walk scored Patrick Bailey, who singled with one on and one out in a 4-3 game to score Chapman, and Austin Slater’s sacrifice fly two batters later tied the game.

Reliever Drew Smyly (2-4) took the loss.

Giants reliever Spencer Howard (1-1) struck out eight and walked one in 4 2/3 scoreless innings of four-hit ball.

Timberwolves sign Finch to four-year contract extension

Cavaliers hiring Warriors assistant Atkinson as next coach, AP source says

CLEVELAND (AP)—Just days ahead of the NBA draft, the Cavaliers picked their coach.

Kenny Atkinson, an assistant with Golden State who helped Brooklyn rebuild before a puzzling departure, will be Cleveland's new coach, a person familiar with decision told The Associated Press on Monday.

The Cavs have been looking for a new leader for their young team since firing J.B. Bickerstaff last month despite two straight playoff appearances and continued progress.

The sides have agreed on a deal and are working through details of Atkinson's contract, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the team is not discussing its search publicly.

ESPN.com was first to report Atkinson is heading to Cleveland.

It's possible there could be a minor delay in the Cavs officially announcing Atkinson's hire. He joined the French national team's staff as an assistant to coach Vincent Collet late last year and is currently in Paris preparing for the Olympics.

Atkinson spent the past three seasons as Steven Kerr's top assistant with the Warriors. In 2022, Atkinson accepted Charlotte's coaching job but backed out a week after agreeing to a four-year contract.

Atkinson's hiring ends an expansive search by the Cavs' front office. Atkinson was one of at least six known candidates to interview with the team since Bickerstaff's firing on May 23—a week after Cleveland was eliminated from the playoffs in five games by the eventual champion Boston Celtics.

The 57-year-old Atkinson checked all the boxes in what the Cavs were looking for: head coaching experience, offensive-minded and a strong reputation for player development.

He emerged as the choice by Cleveland vice president of basketball operations Koby Altman and general manager Mike Gansey last week. Atkinson then met with team chairman Dan Gilbert, who signed off on the Cavs' first coaching hire in five years.

Atkinson went 118-190 in his three-plus seasons with

the Nets, overseeing their rise from the lower tier of the Eastern Conference to a playoff berth in 2019. It appeared he might be with Brooklyn for an extended period following the additions of superstars Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving, but had a surprising split from the franchise in 2020.

Atkinson's parting was a major surprise given the team's growth under his guidance. After leaving, he spent one season on the Los Angeles Clippers' staff before going to Golden State.

With the Warriors, Atkinson got to see one of the league's best offensive players in Stephen Curry and immersed himself in a dynamic offense system he's certain to borrow from with Cleveland.

One of the knocks on Bickerstaff was his inability to improve Cleveland's offense. Still, he went 170-159 in the regular season while guiding the Cavs back to relevance through a rebuild that began in 2018 when LeBron James left as a free agent.

Bickerstaff, who replaced John Beilein midway through the 2019-20 season, kept Cleveland among the top teams in the East this season despite a slew of injuries and Cleveland advanced beyond the first round of the playoffs without James on its roster for the first time since 1994.

Atkinson, who got his NBA coaching start as an assistant on Mike D'Antoni's staff with the New York Knicks in 2008, has some connections on the Cavs after working with center Jarrett Allen and forward Caris LeVert while in Brooklyn.

Hiring a new coach was the first priority in a pivotal summer for the Cavs. Next is getting All-Star guard Donovan Mitchell to accept a long-term contract extension, this week's draft (Cleveland has the No. 20 overall pick) and perhaps retooling the roster with trades and in free agency.

After the Cavs were knocked out of the playoffs, Altman said the team needed a coach who could bring new ideas and a fresh approach to get the most from the team's core of players—Mitchell, Allen, guard Darius Garland and forward Evan Mobley.

Atkinson will get the next shot.



Minnesota Timberwolves head coach Chris Finch listens during a news conference after Game 2 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals, May 24, 2024, in Minneapolis. AP



MINNEAPOLIS

(A P) — The Minnesota Timberwolves signed head coach Chris Finch to a four-year contract extension on Monday, coming off the franchise's best finish in 20 seasons.

Finch steered the Timberwolves to a 56-26 regular-season record, their second-best ever, before they reached the Western Conference finals and lost in five games to Dallas. The only other time in 35 years since the franchise joined the NBA that the Wolves advanced past the first round of

the playoffs was 2004.

With a .557 winning percentage over 3 1/2 seasons, Finch (160-127) is the all-time Timberwolves leader. The late Flip Saunders (427-392), who led the 2004 team to the Western Conference finals, had a .521 winning percentage over 11 seasons. Saunders and Finch are the only two Wolves coaches with 100-plus wins.

"I'm proud of the way we've been able to establish a great culture here with the Timberwolves, and I look forward to continuing to lead this organization and make our fans proud," Finch said in a statement distributed by the team.

The Wolves led the league with 37 wins against Western Conference opponents and had the NBA's best defense, posting a 108.4 defensive rating. Finch and his staff were also selected to coach the Western Conference team in the All-Star game.

"Chris is a wonderful coach, and an even better person," president of basketball operations Tim Connelly said in the statement. "We are thrilled that he is being rewarded with a well-earned extension. Under his guidance the team has improved every year. He's the perfect leader for our organization."

Finch was hired by Con-

nelly's predecessor, Gersson Rosas, on Feb. 21, 2021, to replace the fired Ryan Saunders. He was previously given an extension on April 11, 2022. The 54-year-old Finch was an assistant with Houston, Denver, New Orleans and Toronto before getting his big break in Minnesota.

The two-time NCAA Division III All-American at Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania played for the Sheffield Sharks in the British Basketball League and later coached the same team from 1997-2003. Finch also coached Britain's national team in the 2012 Olympics.

Siakam, Pacers agree on \$189M, 4-year contract that can be signed in July, AP source says

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Pascal Siakam intends to sign a four-year, \$189.5 million contract to remain with the Indiana Pacers when the NBA's offseason moratorium is lifted in early July, a person with knowledge of the talks between the sides told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because neither the player nor the club may announce the agreement by league rule. ESPN, citing unnamed sources, was first to report that Siakam decided to remain with the Pacers.

Free agency does not begin until June 30, but this agree-

ment was not in violation of any league rules. Under terms of the new collective bargaining agreement, teams could start speaking to their own free agents one day after the conclusion of the NBA Finals. And the Pacers were clear going into the offseason that retaining Siakam was a top priority, so it was no surprise that they wanted to begin official talks quickly.

"The first very important step is to begin recruiting Pascal Siakam in earnest," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said a few weeks ago, shortly after the Pacers' season ended. "That will start today with exit meetings. He's a great player. He was tremendous for us."

Siakam—a two-time All-Star and part of the Toronto team that won the 2019 NBA title—would be in line to make about \$42 million next season and around \$53 million in 2027-28, the final year of the new deal.

The Pacers acquired the 30-year-old power forward in a January trade, and he quickly became a major part of the team that would reach the Eastern Conference finals before falling to eventual NBA champion Boston. Siakam shot 55% from the field and 38% from 3-point range in 41 regular-season games with Indiana this past season.

Counting his time in Toronto, Siakam averaged 21.7

points and 7.1 rebounds this past season. The Pacers will have him and guard Tyrese Haliburton—who is about to enter the start of a \$245 million, five-year deal that was agreed upon last summer—as their franchise cornerstones going forward.

Carlisle said he still considered this past season to be Year 2 of a rebuild in Indiana, but he noted that the acquisitions of Siakam and Haliburton (who was traded to Indiana in February 2022) fast-tracked the plan.

"The fact that all these pieces fit well together put us in a strong position this year," Carlisle said when the season ended.

Panthers win 1st Stanley Cup, top Oilers in Game 7



SUNRISE, Fla. (AP)—

Alexander Barkov put his hands at either end of the Stanley Cup and began skating away to start the celebration that the Florida Panthers have wanted forever.

And as he began to hoist hockey's chalice for the first time, he had one thought.

"It's heavy," he said.

A 37-pound trophy wasn't too much for him. A three-game slide wasn't too much for the Panthers. There was no stumble with the Cup, no collapse with the Cup on the line. The Panthers are champions for the first time, after taking about the hardest path possible to the title.

Sam Reinhart and Carter Verhaeghe scored goals, Sergei Bobrovsky made 23 saves and the Panthers beat the Edmonton Oilers 2-1 on Monday night in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Final. It was the third title-round appearance in Florida's 30-year history; it was swept in 1996 by Colorado and routed 4-1 by Vegas last season. And that loss last year was what this team needed.

"You have to go through it first," forward Matthew Tkachuk said, "to know what it takes to get it done."

This time, they were on the right side of history—after avoiding what would have been a historic collapse. The Panthers won the first three



games of the series, then lost the next three and needed a win on Monday to avoid joining the 1942 Detroit Red Wings as the only teams to lose the final after taking a 3-0 lead in the title round.

"It's not what I thought it would be," Panthers coach Paul Maurice said. "It's so much better."

It wasn't easy. Not even close. But it's done.

Barkov handed the Cup to

Florida Panthers defenseman Aaron Ekblad raises the NHL hockey Stanley Cup trophy after defeating the Edmonton Oilers in Game 7 of the Final, Monday, June 24, 2024, in Sunrise, Fla.

Bobrovsky and the celebration was on. It took until the very end for the Panthers to deny Connor McDavid his first title, and Edmonton what would have been its first Cup since 1990.

"You want to become a true champion and you want to win," said Bobrovsky, a champion for the first time at 35. "But at the end of the day, you don't do it for the Cups. You do it for the love of the game."

McDavid won the Conn Smythe as MVP of the Stanley Cup playoffs. He didn't come out for the trophy. It's not the one he wanted, anyway. The Cup is what they play for, and it was Florida that hoisted it.

"No player in the world wants to win the Stanley Cup

more than him," Oilers teammate Leon Draisaitl said of McDavid, who had one of the greatest individual postseasons in NHL history with 42 points. "He does everything right, every single day."

But the Panthers did a little more right on Monday. And that's the difference.

"It's not a dream anymore. It's not a dream. It's reality," said Tkachuk, who got traded to Florida two summers ago with this as his goal. "I can't believe it. I can't believe it. ... I can't believe how good these two years have been. So thankful for this group of guys. It's the best place, best guys. It's something really special here with what we have."

Mattias Janmark had the goal for Edmonton and Stuart Skinner stopped 19 shots for the Oilers. The Oilers also couldn't snap Canada's title drought; it's been 1993 and counting since a team based in Canada won the Cup.

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athletics team, tennis team, and some members of the softball team Sunday morning.

Other members of the NMI delegation will fly out over the course of this week, with multi-awarded and two-sport athlete (basketball/athletics) Lia Rangamar, and wrestler and gold medalist Ryan Babauta, nominated as the flag bearers for the Games closing ceremony last Sunday night.

Hofschneider, who is also the Northern Marianas Sports Association's secretary general, said of the team's performance, "Considering the heat—it's so much hotter than back home, we did really well. I couldn't ask for more from anybody else."

As for the team's medal haul, she said, "Wow! That's all I can say, 'wow!' The number is fantastic overall. It makes me super happy. I'm really, really proud of what our team is able to accomplish... It really does exceed our expectations because we never really know how well we can perform. We can say things

about our team, like how good they are, but we never really know until our athletes actually perform and do the work. They've been training for how many months and that's just an understatement."

With the historic gold medal rush and setting a new record at 70, along with all the other records set, she said, "All I can say is a bigger wow than I just said earlier. Words can't express how proud I am about our team on how well they performed. We're lucky that they were able to excel during these games."

For the eight national federations that came out to not only compete but excel and come out on top—National Fast-Pitch Softball Team, National Men's/Women's Basketball Team, National Tennis Team, National Tennis Team, National Beach Volleyball Team, National Swimming Team, National Athletics Team, and the National Weightlifting Team—Hofschneider said, "it shows that they put in all the hard work. I've seen the work that basketball put in with their program, in building up their team—this goes for every other federation—it shows the

hard work, planning, thinking thoughtfully about how they're going to train the athletes they may want to bring to the Marshalls—over the past months or even the past couple of years."

She quoted cross-fitter Matt Fisher, "Hard work does pay off. That's the case for all our federations. It showed how much input and effort they put into their athletes."

The 110-strong NMI delegation from the eight different federations also train and operate on limited resources. The swim team doesn't have a full-sized pool to train in yet they swept almost all the competitions in the Games—pool and open water swims—with 49 golds, 15 silvers, and 14 bronzes. She said of their dominating performance sans a pool, "It's amazing. When you really think about it, it's amazing what we can do."

With the limitations of training facilities and venues for certain sports on the island, she said, "The limitations that we have, that's just the island life. Where we're located, we're limited in resources—in life. But that just shows that

as islanders, we think, 'what can we do with what I already have?' and, 'if there's something that I don't have, how can I get it down the line?' I think that just shows more thoughtfulness in how to go about getting to our end goal."

As for the highlight of her stint as CDM, she said, "Seeing my people, my kids—anyone that's younger than me, I say they're my kids—just seeing them excel and actually getting the gold. Everybody wants to get a gold or just a medal, but hearing or watching them actually get it—I don't know how to put it into words—it's just fantastic."

Lastly, she said about all the NMI athletes that competed, "Just because you grow up on a small island doesn't mean nothing is impossible." As for those athletes that flew in from other places just to represent the NMI, "I think it's really good that they even put this into consideration. Anybody that wants to come back and compete, that's great. That makes our option for our player pool even bigger and more opportunities for our people as well."

WRESTLERS

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Marshall Islands' Sebastian Peralta.

The Idaho fly-in completed his collection of three gold medals, with his first gold medal on the first day last Saturday in the freestyle 79-kg division. His second gold was in the Greco-Roman 77-kg division last Sunday.

For Babauta in the beach wrestling 90-kg division, he also won over points, 3-0, in a quick 37-second match against Palau's Skarlee Renguul.

Renguul settled for silver, with bronze won by Pohnpei's Ryan Ifamilik.

Greene said of his golden run in the Games, "My experience in wrestling the Micronesian Games for the CNMI was overall quite great. This was an awesome opportunity that has taught me so many things. Having a coach like Rick [Bauer] and teammates like Ryan and Aden [Attao] have allowed me to grow and develop more as a wrestler."

As for his performance in the Games, he said, "With the months of training back in Idaho, and practice with the team in Saipan I can honestly say that I'm not surprised with how Ryan and I performed. We both have put in the work to stand at the top of the podium. So, when the time came to compete, we did just that. It feels good and I am proud of how my teammate Ryan and I performed. This was an awesome experience that I am so thankful for."

His favorite moment, he said, was when he tossed his

opponent in the Greco-Roman finals for 5 points and secured his second gold. "That moment was just so amazing to me. This was my first time back into wrestling Greco for about eight years, so I really enjoyed getting back into the different style of wrestling," he said. "The sport of wrestling will always have a part of my heart. The grind and the atmosphere was just something else."

As for 26-year-old Babauta, he said, "I came into these Micro Games with a lot of confidence. For a little over three months, I have been training hard with my coach, Rick Bauer, both on the sand and at Trench Tech Gym. Coach Bauer made sure I was physically and mentally prepared for war."

He added, "About a month ago, my teammate James Attao-Greene, traveled out from Idaho and we battled for weeks, which really sharpened my skills to what would later get me three gold medals. And I can't forget Aden Attao. Another great wrestler who shared the mats with me and Junior and showed me technique that would help me dominate other great wrestlers from across Micronesia. This experience has been an awesome ride, and thanks to my coach and teammates, we came back victorious, with six gold medals for the CNMI!"

When asked if he would compete in wrestling for NMI again, he said, "I always look forward to competing again and representing the CNMI. I will continue to compete as long as my body allows me to."

Greene and Babauta were coached by Rick Bauer with team manager Jason Tarkong.

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and Saralu on the team were Maiyah Duenas, Kiara Borja, Angel Deleon Guerrero, Ashlie Aguon, Christy Aldan, Kianu Aldan, Jaylina Borja, Jhaneeka Atalig, Keolani Rios, Kiana Camacho, Rayna Deleon Guerrero, Jenisha Dubrall, and Britney Gopez. They were coached by Manny Sablan, Mark Flores, Mario Aguon, and Derron Flores.

Assistant coach Mark Flores said of the team's bronze medal win, "it really wasn't what we were expecting. But after we got that, we kind of wanted it more. The girls played as hard as they could. They're

very new and I'm very proud of them because of all the work they did with all the guidance from their coaches."

As the newest coach on the team, he said, "I'm very thankful to have the opportunity to come out and help out the training of the girls. We hope we made you guys proud. We hope you enjoyed the games the girls put up for you guys, but this is the start of fast-pitch softball. We're excited to bring the girls back and try something fresh for the islands, so keep an eye out."

The tournament overall, Flores said, "was really good. It was my first one so I didn't know what to expect. To be honest, I expected just a little less, but I'm so impressed

with what happened over here and I'm very thankful to the hospitality the people of RMI have shown us. Thank you."

Head coach Manny Sablan, who got an ice bath from the players after their win against Palau, said, "they did all the hard work. I guess all the games that they played, they learned from it so they got to adjust. I lost my voice but hey, they played a heck of a game. Good job to the pitchers! Hats off to the ladies, they did everything."

Co-captain Rios said of their bronze, "We could've done better, but we worked hard to get this far. At least we're going home with something."

Team captain Aldan then chimed in and said, "No one

was expecting us to get a medal but we worked our [butts] off to get this medal and represent the CNMI. I'm so grateful to my team and my coaches and managers because they really pushed us." She added that she's proud of their youngest player, Rosie Saralu, who hit three inside-the-park home runs over the course of their tournament.

Kiana "Baby K" Camacho, for her part, said, "We want to thank the supporters back home and all the supporters here as well. We want to thank all our coaches and teammates for picking our heads up. As long as we bring something home, that's all that matters—doesn't matter what place—we made history!"



**Phillies
complete a 1-3-
5 triple play in
a win over the
Tigers
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**Panthers
win 1st
Stanley Cup,
top Oilers in
Game 7
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

High praises for historic run for Team NMI

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

As the curtain closed on the final day of the 10th Micronesian Games that brought Micronesia together for sport and camaraderie last Sunday, the NMI delegation capped off their historic run with the most gold medals ever at 70, garnering high praises from its chef de mission, Valerie Hofschneider.

The wrestling team wrapped up NMI's stint with the team's final two gold medals to stay atop the gold medal standings at 70. The gold rush far surpassed the old 30-year record held by Guam of 56 when they hosted the Games in 1994.

Also, the 122 total medals broke the 92 medals (44-23-



25) Team NMI previously recorded in the 2010 Micronesian Games held in Palau. This was also the first time since 2002 that Team NMI ranked No.1 in the final medal standings.

Hofschneider made her way back home before the Games closing ceremony with the See **HIGH** on Page 15



LEIGH GASES

Team NMI's 10th Micronesian Games chef de mission Valerie Hofschneider, kneeling left and holding the CNMI flag, poses with some members of the delegation from the athletics team, tennis team, and softball team after they touched down at the Francisco C. Palacios/Saipan International Airport yesterday morning from the Marshall Islands.

History for fast-pitch softball team with bronze medal win

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The NMI National Fast-Pitch Softball Team's debut in the 10th Micronesian Games was a historic one as they won the first ever medal for the NMI in the sport after their bronze medal matchup against Pohnpei, 8-9, last Friday at the Majuro Track and Field.

The young, up-and-coming NMI softball players silenced their doubters after they fought for their guar-



LEIGH GASES

NMI National Fast Pitch Softball Team catcher and the youngest player on the team at 14, Rosie Saralu, runs safely home after an inside-the-park home run during their do-or-die game against Palau, who they eventually beat, 15-14, to get to the bronze medal round of the 10th Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands last week.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The NMI National Fast-Pitch Softball Team poses with their bronze medals and Republic of Marshall Islands president Hilda Heine, in orange, during the softball awards ceremony of the 10th Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Islands last Friday.

anteed bronze medal after eliminating a veteran Palau team, 15-14, last Thursday. They then played their hearts out again versus Pohnpei to almost make it to the gold medal round against host Republic of Marshall Islands.

The game against Pohnpei saw a hungry and feisty NMI team that was willing to fight until the very end to prove themselves even more. It was actually way past the end as they brought the game into an extra eighth inning with a tie game of 6-6.

As NMI was the visiting team, they hit at the top

of the inning for a chance to score some runs first and break the tie.

Then, with a ghost-runner on second base, two-sport athlete Destiny Pangelinan stepped up to the plate. With one swing of the bat, the ball found a gap deep into right-center field which brought home the seventh run. She sprinted all the way home for the eighth run, 8-6, on an inside-the-park homer.

Pohnpei had the last chance at the bottom of the inning as the home team and tried to fight off NMI pitcher Alanah Sablan—who also tried to

hold them down. The fighting Pohnpeians came out hot and put pressure on the pitcher and the defense as the young team made multiple errors. The first run came in, then the tying run, and then ultimately, the winning run as NMI catcher Rosie Saralu threw a pick off to second base while the runner at third tagged up to score home.

It wasn't heartbreak overall as the NMI team capped their run with the bronze medal after their only win of the tournament against Palau.

With Pangelinan, Sablan, See **HISTORY** on Page 15

Wrestlers end NMI stint in Micro Games with a golden sweep



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI wrestlers James Attao-Greene Jr., left, and Ryan Babauta, right, pose with their three gold medals each in the wrestling competition of the 10th Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Islands last Sunday.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The NMI National Wrestling Team ended the NMI's historic run in the 10th Micronesian Games with a sweep of gold in all styles of the wrestling competition last Monday.

The overcast sky held off rain long enough until after the last match to give way for both James Attao-Greene Jr. and Ryan Babauta to collect the NMI's last gold medals in their beach wrestling event on the Games' final day. These two gold medals solidified the NMI's lead in

the Micro Games with 70 in the gold medal tally over nine other island nations.

This puts Team NMI as having the most ever gold medals in Micronesian Games history.

Seventeen-year-old Greene debuted and took his talents to his first beach wrestling event and still dominated the 80-kg field with a gold medal finish. He crushed Nauru's Hamray Temaki via points, 5-0, in a match that lasted 1:05.

Silver went to Temaki, while bronze was host See **WRESTLERS** on Page 15